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FROM THE OLD SOUTH-SEA HOUSE

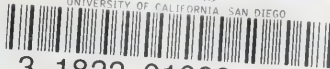
A.W. RUMNEY

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FROM THE OLD SOUTH-SEA HOUSE



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THE RUMNEY CUP.

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FROM THE OLD SOUTH-SEA HOUSE

BEING
THOMAS RUMNEY'S LETTER BOOK
1796-1798

EDITED BY HIS GREAT-GREAT-NEPHEW
A. W. RUMNEY

AUTHOR OF "THE DALESMAN," ETC.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

LONDON
SMITH, ELDER & CO., 15, WATERLOO PLACE

1914

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IN VIEW OF THE MANY YOUNG CUMBRIANS EMPLOYED
TO-DAY IN LONDON IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES
TO THOMAS RUMNEY, THIS VOLUME IS
DEDICATED TO

RICHARD RIGG, ESQ.

PRESIDENT OF THE LONDON ENGLISH COUNTY
SOCIETIES' CONFERENCE, AND PAST PRESIDENT
OF THE CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND
ASSOCIATION OF LONDON

INTRODUCTION

THE Rumney family of "statesman"—that is yeoman—status has been established in the parish of Watermillock, on the Cumbrian shore of Ulleswater, certainly from the time of the earliest registers of that parish (1590), and probably for generations before. James Clarke, in his "Survey of the Lakes" (1787), stated that he was in possession of an admittance of an Anthony Rumney to two customary freehold tenements at Gowbarrow Hall and Old Church, dated 1474. The family continued to hold this property until the seventeenth century, when they lost it in a curious lawsuit with the Lord of the Manor, and migrated to the smaller property of Mellfell, in or about the year 1678. As Gowbarrow was the chief tenement in the Barony, part of the Manor of Greystoke, the Rumneys often acted as bailiffs of the Barony, and in the parish registers for 1619 we find the record of the burial of

"Mr. Oswolde Rumny lait bailif of the tp of Wethermealock who lived 95 yeares in great honestie true dealing with all men and in love with his neighboores."

This Oswald was probably one of the signatories of a curious entry in the same registers for the year 1607, which runs—

"M.D. In this yeare of our Lord God 1607 was a marvellous great frost wch contynued from the first day of December until the XVth day of February after. Vlleswater was frozen ower and so contynued from the VIth day of December untill the XXIInd day of February followinge. So strong that men in great companies made a common way up the same from John Barton's dore to Fewsdaille Wyke. And men of Martin-dail carried shepe up the same on at Barton's and of at Sharrowsande. Men went up the same water and over yt with horses loaden with corne. Upon the VIth day of January the younge folkes of Sowlby went into the midst of the same water and had a minstrell wth them and there daunced all the after Noone. On Shrove tuesday being the IXth day of February at Weathermeallock was a Boone fire builded on the Ise and matches of shotinges shott and a Pott wth aill drunke thereupon by Edward Willson of Benethead, Anthony Rumpney,* Francis Rumney, John Castelhowe and others etc.

OSWOLD RUMNEY *balif*

MATTHEW GIBSON *Curate*

ANTHONY PATTYNSON *Psh Clerk*

Churchwardens

JOHN REWKINGE

OSWOLD CLERKE

CUTHBERT SLEE

JOHN CASTELHOW OF GRENEY"

* Other variations of spelling of the surname are Romeney, Romeneye, Rumnai, Rumnaie, Rumnay, Rumnaye, and Rumnei.

Towards the end of the seventeenth century the Rumneys became involved in the law-suit mentioned above, the only surviving evidence of whose nature is in an old tattered brief, which together with the admittances referred to is now in my possession. This I have had transcribed by an expert, and it runs as follows:—

For the Defend^{ts}.

EDWARD FEARON, p ^{lt} .	} in Trespas and Ejectm ^t .
WILLM RUMNEY, and	
MARGERY RUMNEY, Def ^{ts} .	

CUMB^Ŕ S^ŝ. { The p^{lt} Declares That Henry,
 Lord Mowbray, the 19th May A^{ño}
 35^o R^ē nunc, at Weathermealock,
 did demise to the p^{lt} Three Mesuages 40 Acres
 of Land 40 Acres of meadow and 100 Acres
 of Pasture cū p^{ti}ñ in Weathermealock p^ŕd
 Hēnd to the p^{lt} and his Assignes from the 18^o
 day of May tunc insta^ñ for the Terme of 7
 yeares then next following. By vertue where-
 of the p^{lt} Entred and was thereof Po^ŝsed untill
 the def^{ts} afterwards, To witt, the ŝd 19^o day
 of May A^{ño} 35^o Sup^ŕd vi et armis, etc., into
 the Tem^{ts} aforeŝd Entred And Ejected the p^{lt}
 Et āl enormia, etc., to the p^{lts} damage of 40^{li}.

The defend^t Pleads not Guilty.

Confess Lease Entry and Outer.

The Lands in Question are Two Customary Mesuages and Tem^{ts} with the appr^{is}, one called Gowbruy Hall and the other the Old Church, within the Manno^r of Weathermelock,

pcell of the Barrony of Graistock, And are holden in Teñant Right und^r the Duke of Norfolk by Paym^t of xxvj^s. viij^d. yearly Rent and an Arbitrary Fine att the death of the Lord and Change of the Teñant by death or Alienaçon, And the def^t claimes the Lands afore^{sd} und^r the Duke as A ten^t right Estate. And the Lessor Claymes the same by some settlem^t from the ^{sd} Duke of all the Barrony made unto him, And p^rtends That Wm: Rumney, grand father of the def^t, tooke some Lease of the Lands in Qũion for 21 year^l And soe has forfeited his Tenant right Estate.

The def^ts Title to the Lands in Qũion. { That the ^{sd} Tho: Rumney, the def^ts father, att A Court held for the ^{sd} Manno^r of Weather

Mealock the 15^o October 1656, after the death of Wm: his father was admitted Teñant of the ^{sd} Mesuages and Lands in Question, And Paid 40^{li}. upon his admittance. See his Admittance und^r the Com^{rs} hands

That the ^{sd} Tho: held and Enjoyed the ^{sd} Lands in Tent Right during his life according to the ^{sd} Admittance, And Paid his Rents and services; To prove this Call

See another Admittance to him und^r ^{sd} Com^{rs} hands, dated 30^o Decembr 1657, and 33^{li}. vj^s. viij^d. fine Paid.

John Thompson and p^rves alsoe 2 herriots, taken.

That the ſd Def^{te} after the death of his father was att A Court held for the ſd Mannor the 19^o Febr: 15^o R^e nunc by Two Seve[ra]ll Admittances, one for Gowbray Hall, of the Rent of xx^s. And the other of [Old Church] of the Rent of vj^s. viij^d. was admitted Teñant Thereof according [to the] Custome of the Mannor and Paid Fine for Gowbray 20^{li}. And for Old Church vij^{li}. See sev^ll admittances thereof und^r Roger Williams hand then Steward

See other Two Admittances to def^t und^r Wm: Williams hand then Steward, To the def^t of the ſd Lands, dated 10^o Januarii 18^o R^e nunc, And xxvij^{li}. . . . Paid in all.

That after the ſd Barrony of Graistock and Mannor of Weathermealock had diſcended and come To his Grace, the Duke of Norfolke, The Def^t was then Questioned for A Fine, And thereupon he Compounded and Agreed with his Grace for xx^{li}. Fine, and was admitted Teñant to the ſd Lands in Question, Hēnd to the def^t during the Joynt lives of the def^t and the ſd

Mr. Rich:
Aglionby
pves the
Admittance.
Mr. Grainger
p Fine.

Duke, according to the Custome of the Mannor. See the Admittance and to Prove the same. And to Prove Fine of 20^{li}.

The Def^t Margery's Title, etc.

{ That the def^t Margery, widd^w and Relict of Tho: Rumney, de^{cd}, Claymes the

Moyety of the s^d Lands in Qũion for her Free Bench and widdowes Estate, due unto her according to the Custome, And ever Since his death hath held and Enjoyed A Moyety Thereof according to the Custome. Call

} John
Thompson

To pve W^m: Dyed Tenant, and 2 herriots taken at his death

John
Thompson

{ In Case it should be objected That the Lands in Qũion are noe Antient Custumary Lands, but that they were Demesne lands and held by Lease. Answ they were Antient Custumary Lands, And see an Admittance thereof To Oswald Rumney of the Lands in Question, Called by the name of one Tenem^t with the apprts, in Weathermelock, of the Rent of xxvj^s. viij^d. Great Grandfather of the def^t. Hẽnd to

him and his Assigns sēdm̄ conſ
 Maneř. See the Admitt̄ dat̄ 5^o
 Junii 21^o Eliz, Regiñ 1579. And
 5^{li}. then Paid for A Gressam or
 Fine. That the ſd Oswald Dyed
 Teñant thereof, And after him
 Wm: his sonn was admitted Teñant
 and dyed Teñant thereof (but this
 Admittance wee Cannot find, nor
 have the Court Rolls or Records
 being all In the Lessor^s Poſſion
 and those from whome he
 Claimes). And then the same
 discended to Thomas, who was
 admitted as aforeſd, And then
 To Willm, his sonne. And To
 Prove the Continued Poſſions of
 the Def^{te} and his Ancesto^{rs} Call
 Mr. Geo: Sargison.

The Lessor^e
 Title as wee
 suppose.

{ That the Lessor, being now Lord
 of the Barrony of Graistock, claime-
 ing by settlem^t from the ſd Duke
 of Norfolk, p^rtends That Wm:
 Rumney, grandfather of the def^t, ab^t

1629, tooke a Lease of the Land^e in Qũion from
 Ann, Then Countess of Arrundall and Surry,
 for 21 years, And soe by the Taking of That
 lease has distreyed and forfeited his Teñant
 right estate, And therefore enters and brings
 his ejectm^t ag^t the def^{ts} for a forfeiture.

- i. Putt the Lessor of the p^{lt} to Prove his Title.
 And an Actuell Entry made before the

Ejectm^t brought for there is 3 discents in the Case, And since y^e first admittance 1579, there is 104 years possession of A Continued customary Estate from Ancesto^r to heire.

2. Putt the Lessor p^rcisely To Prove That there was such A Lease of the lands in Q^uion sealed and executed by y^e said Countesse to the ſd Wm: Rumney, and That he did accept thereof and sealed A Counterp^t. And held the Lands und^r that Lease and Payed the Rent reserved during y^e Term thereby granted or else [it] cannot work A forfeiture for the def^t denyes any such Lease althoe may be they may . . . some Kind of Coppy of such Lease and That there was such A one granted and that it was deliv[er]ed] to def^t. Note alsoe if they Prove such A lease yet the def^ts father Tho: was re-admitted and the def^t now re-admitted before the Lessor had any Title.

To Prove That if there was any such lease Taken it was Taken but out of Colour to draw other Teñants in to take leases (y^e ſd Wm: Rumney being then Bliffe to the ſd Countess), and to bring them to submitt to y^e ſd Countess, which y^e other Teñants would never d[oe] but allwayes held their Lands as Custumary Estates of Inheritan[ce] . . . [a]nd y^e ſd Wm: never Enjoyed

Mr. Geo:
Sargison
John Th . . .

.

William Rumney lost his suit and Gowbarrow Hall and had to betake himself to Mellfell, a property of secondary importance already in his possession, despite the statement in the following quaint petition :—

“ To the most noble Prince Henry Duke
of Norfolk Earl Marshall of England.

“ The humble petition of William Rumney of Gowberry Hall
in the County of Cumberland.

“ Sheweth That your petitioners ancestors have time beyond memory of man been servts to your noble ancestors and your noble family (to wit) Mr. Anthony Rumney who served the Earle of Arundell in the time of his confinement in the tower, Edward Rumney, Oswald Rumney, William Rumney and Thomas Rumney who all were either servants or bayliffs of the Manor of Wethermeallock within the Barony of Greystocke and duly performed their said service and office And also held of your noble ancestors two tenements called Gowberry Hall and the Old Church within the sd manor in Tenant right by the payment of one pound six shillings and eight pence rent and an arbitrary ffine at the death of the Lord and change of the Tenant by death or alienation.

That your petitioner and his ancestors have been admitted Tenants of the said premises time out of mind and have had a continued possession of a Tenant Right estate from Ancestors to heirs for above 100 years and that your petitioner and his father since the death of Willm his grandfather who died about 29 years ago have paid in fines to your Grace and noble ancestors upon death and . . . for the said premises above 170 [pounds?] as will appear by several admittances ready to be produced to your grace.

“ That your Grace upon payment of his fines to hold during the admittance will appear

“ That the Right Honble the Earle of Arundell your grace's son, having been informed that there had been some lease granted or made of the premises to Willm Rumney

your petitioner's grandfather who was then Bayliffe to Anne Countess of Arundell which if such lease was taken it was done only to bring other Tenants in and the Tenants never submitting but continuing their Tenant Right Estates still the said Willm Rumney never held nor enjoyed the said premises under the said lease but always as a Tenant Right estate, caused an ejectment to be brought against your petitioner and brought down a trial at Carlisle the last Assizes and had a verdict againt your petitioner for the said premises notwithstanding your petitioner had been lately admitted Tenant by your Grace of wh trial the Reverend Dr Browne can inform your grace of the hardship hereof against your petitioner and now your petitioner is likely to be thrown out of possession and totally ruined And it being all that he had in the world will be taken from him and must be forced to fly his country to get a poor living.

"May it therefore please your noble Grace to look upon your poor petitioners misery and to consider his poor distressed and miserable condition and to move the Right Honble the Earl of Arundell to comiserate your petitioners case and condition and to admit him Tenant to the premises again upon some reasonable consideration or to grant him some other relief therein as to your Grace and Lordship's wisdom and judgement shall think fit And your petitioner shall ever pray &c."

It will be noticed that in this petition mention was made of an Anthony Rumney, an attendant of the Earl of Arundell in the Tower. Now this Earl, who by his marriage with Anne Dacre acquired the Greystoke property, was fined £10,000 and incarcerated by Elizabeth in 1585. In 1589 he was condemned for High Treason but was never executed, and died still a prisoner in 1595. Until 1586 the earl was not allowed any attendants of his own choosing, but this rule was

afterwards relaxed and the following is an excerpt from a letter from Sir Owyn Hopton to Lord Walsingham, dated 22nd August, 1589.

"The E of Arundel had made a choice of Edward Handlyn an Irishman to attend on him in the place of Anthony Rumneye."

I have made considerable search amongst the numerous books relating to the Howards but can find no reference to the Rumneys. I have also searched the walls of the Beauchamp Tower in the Tower of London, where the Earl's own inscriptions are well preserved, but can find no trace of his retainer.

These searches were inspired by a desire to discover the origin of the Rumney Cup or Mazer (see frontispiece) which was restored by Thomas Rumney, the writer of the letters that form the body of this book, for it seemed exceedingly likely that it might well be the gift of the Earl to his servant. There is no evidence of the state of the cup when Thomas, with the best of intentions, had it "restored" by Blake of Birchin Alley in 1800. Unfortunately, too, there is no reference to it in his surviving correspondence or accounts, though from the inscription it is evident that he was full of family pride respecting it.

The cup itself is of silver gilt, and in its present form stands $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height, but originally was probably an inch lower; its diameter is $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches and its weight 24 ounces.

The maple base of the bowl, the scalloped

metal fringe overlapping the same and the design of the foot, all point to its being a "mazer" or cup in common domestic use between the thirteenth and sixteenth centuries, though according to the British Museum catalogue only some fifty are known to survive and few of these have feet at all. Indeed all the five in the British Museum are without feet and the only illustration Sir C. H. Read, the keeper of its mediaeval Room, was able to show me of a footed one is that mentioned in his note. By the attempted restoration the typical spreading shape of the mazer was completely lost, and exchanged for the present deeper and more upright bowl. Possibly the original rim had already disappeared and the restorer had nothing to go by.

The inscription on the upper flange runs as follows :—

This Cup, together with a couple of Silver Salts, was given by the Honourable Family of Howards of Greystoke, in the County of Cumberland, to the Ancient Family of Rumneys, formerly of Gowbarrow Hall, but now of Mellfell in said parish and county. Thomas Rumney, of the ninth generation since this Cup came into his Family, had it repaired and this Inscription put upon it. A.D. 1800.

The following note has been kindly supplied by Sir C. H. Read :—

British Museum, 8th July, 1911.

The Rumney cup reminds me of an ancient village church which has survived for four or five centuries and has undergone changes from time to time during its existence.

Originally the cup was the somewhat luxurious successor of the wooden drinking bowl that doubtless stood beside

every man's platter in mediaeval times. In order to make such a bowl more worthy of the wealthy merchant or burgher, a broad silver rim was added, and to enable it to serve in addition as an ornament to the table, a tall foot.

In the Rumney cup the tall foot survives, more or less in its integrity, but alas, the original rim has gone and has been replaced by another which has effectually changed the entire character of the cup. To understand how it looked originally we must go to Pembroke College, Cambridge, and see the "Foundress' Cup" (figured in *Illust. Catalogue of the Loan Collection of Plate exhibited in the Fitzwilliam Museum*, 1895. By J. E. Foster and T. D. Atkinson, pl. IV.).

This cup was given to the College by Dr. Richard Sokborn, who was elected a Fellow in 1470 and resigned in 1478. It is not unreasonable to assume that the cup was given between these two dates, and probably in or about 1470, and further that the cup was then new or of recent make.*

The similarity between this and the Rumney cup is very great and there can be no reasonable doubt that they were both made about the same time. How far this date accords with the Rumney family story may be seen by Mr. Rumney's account.

In 1800 the new rim was added to the Rumney cup, and it is much to be regretted that the silversmith who made it was not instructed to preserve the original outline, but instead

* According to "*Cantabrigia Depicta*" (1811), Pembroke College was founded in 1343 by the Countess of Pembroke, who died considerably later, and "her cup is still preserved among the college plate. It is of silver, gilt; and is brought out on extraordinary occasions. It has this singular inscription round it—

"Sayn Denes y^t es me dere for hes lof drink and mak gud cher.
M.V. God help at ned.
Saint Dionyse is my dear;
Wherefore be merry and make good cheer."

A. W. R.

made a rim twice as high as the original one and failed to maintain the original contour.

Inside the bowl is a raised medallion or "print" as it is called, within a moulded frame. Here again the silversmith has added his own work, an eagle displayed on a blue ground, in place of the original print, which may have been lost. But in my judgment the moulded frame of this medallion is the original one.

C. H. READ.

The history of the cup is limited to the afore-said inscription and tradition. Allowing the customary thirty years to a generation, the date of the gift would seem to be about 1530, at which time the Howards had not come into possession of Greystoke and its manors, in succession to the Dacres and Graystokes.

Owing to certain gaps in the Watermillock registers, it is not possible accurately to ascertain the number of generations, but the earliest Rumney mentioned in them was an Anthony, christened in 1581. Unless he was baptised at a mature age, a not uncommon event even nowadays in remote districts, this could not be the attendant mentioned in Hopton's letter.

In the will of Thomas Rumney of Gowbarrow, dated 1662, it is already called "the ancient over gilt cupp" and is bequeathed to his son William, the unfortunate litigant, together with "the long table standing in the hall," which is believed to be the very rough substantial article, whose top is made of a single oak plank 2 inches thick, still standing in the back kitchen of Mellfell House.

Thomas Rumney the writer of the following letters, was christened on the 3rd June, 1764, and was the second son of William and Mary Rumney of Mellfell. His elder brother Anthony was christened on the 22nd April, 1762, and the parson brother William on the 15th June, 1766. His sisters Barbary, Ann and Elizabeth were christened in 1755, 1757 and 1759 respectively. The father died in 1769 and it is evident that the Rev. Edward Clark, the brother of Mrs. Rumney and himself a Watermillock boy, befriended her at least to the extent of educating the youngest boy for the church and placing the second one in a London counting house.

The letters themselves are literal transcripts without any alteration, beyond a few omissions, from the only draft letter book of my great-great-uncle, which has survived. The few necessary explanations are confined to the foot-notes.

Two reasons have induced me to publish the letters. The first is the considerable humour of the two "love" episodes chronicled together with the *naïf* style of their telling. The other is that there is a lack of first hand evidence of the method of life and of ways and means of the humbler classes of that period. Letters and diaries of more important folk abound, but of the clerk, curate, and small "statesman" and how they managed on their incomes of something about £100 a year in a period of very different prices

from the present, we have very little definite information.

The letters were written at a time when very few tourists visited the Lakes and establishments of the kind now distinguished as "residential," absolutely did not exist. On Ulleswater there was not one between Dalemmain and Lyulph's Tower, unless Mr. Robinson's could be so described.

A natural question will suggest itself to many : "What relation, if any, was Thomas Rumney to George Romney the famous artist?" True it is that George spelled his name with a "u" before he went up to London (*teste* the documents in his own writing in Kendal Town Hall) and also that he hailed from Dalton on the outskirts of the Lake District. It is further true that his grandfather was a "statesman" at Colby Laithes near Appleby, only some 15 miles from Watermillock, and that George was a common name in Thomas's family. But, alas! it is also true that the joint efforts of the painter's great-granddaughter and myself have been unable to connect the two families. It is a coincidence that George and Thomas were both in London at the same period, though engaged in very different pursuits; that about the same time one went to Hampstead and the other to Highgate for health's sake, and that both left London for the North about the same time, but I doubt very much if either knew of the other's existence.

Charles Lamb's short connection with the South-Sea House terminated in February, 1792. I have no evidence as to whether Thomas Rumney was there at that time nor how it was that his employer Mr. Johnson had his office in the building of the Company, as a West India merchant.

A. W. RUMNEY.

July, 1914.

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SOUTH-SEA HOUSE.
Tom Rumney's office door.

FROM THE OLD SOUTH-SEA HOUSE

CHAPTER I

THE PARSON AND THE CLERK

London, 4th June, 1796.

REV. EDWARD CLARK,
Highworth, Wilts.

DEAR UNCLE,

Mr. Angell very obligingly delivered me your letter yesterday afternoon: and your letter to Mr. Rutter was taken to his office immediately, an answer to which I have the pleasure to inclose.

My brother William informed me a few weeks ago that he entertained a thought of paying his respects to you and Mrs. Clark ere long, but I did not know that he had determined upon it. I presume the young Reverend *is* a good deal unhinged and embarrassed at present, and that he visits you at this time in order to have a general consultation respecting his present and future prospects, and I hope you will have the goodness to repeat your wholesome advice to him

and instruct him what to do—and I will endeavour to assist you in a certain part of the business, which I apprehend will be laid before you to be discussed very seriously.

I received a letter from him dated the 13th ultimo, by which it appears he is inclined to change his condition ; and, as both you and I know how pleasant a thing it would be to see a favourable change in his circumstances, I am willing that our endeavours should be united to accomplish it. I have already wrote him a long letter respecting it, but am not favoured with a reply yet. The lady's name whom he has conceived some degree of attachment for, is Holy-Oak: perhaps you have heard it mentioned before by himself: she lives with her parents a few miles distant from Alcester; and I fancy he has been in the habit of visiting the family almost ever since he went to be a curate at Alcester, which is now some years ago. I understand the old people live in good credit and are much respected. And Miss is reported to be of an amiable disposition, well calculated for a domestic companion—has a few hundreds in her own pocket, and entertains sanguine hopes of being materially benefited by the final absence of some rich relations—who have it in their power to assist a friend in obtaining promotion in the Church. To this must also be added the report that she has the offer to accept a gentleman of £500 per annum, of good character (a proof that if she has not much money, she must have what is

much better, viz. much merit) and to crown the whole, I have to tell you that she has evinced the strongest proof of her attachment to Bill, and to convince you of it, I will trouble you with an extract of his last letter to me, viz.—

“The week before last I spent six days in Warwickshire, staid one night at Booker’s and the rest at Mr. Holyoak’s. Miss made me promise to go again in the course of six or eight weeks against her return from Wolverhampton. Indeed I am sorry for the good lady. She frets, and I am told and firmly believe, for me. In plain words I mentioned the matter, and told her my going there could be of no service. Reply—‘Yes, it will, and can do you no harm. You do not know what good card may turn up in your favour.’ I observed that her relations would cut up dmd. well at last, etc. Her age is more than mine by six years and upwards. I hinted to her to marry a gentleman of £500 per annum, whom she knows she can have any day, but who seems not to be the right one.”

I have ventured thus far to expose the business but from the most pure motive, and rest assur’d that you will guard against my falling into discredit in the eye of my brother from being so officious. Believe me, I always had his interest and welfare at heart, and am not sensible of ever having neglected to embrace the opportunity, when I thought I could render him any kind of service, and with respect to this novel affair I do, in jumbling up circumstances together, give it you

as my decided opinion that William Rumney may go further and fare worse.

I can fancy to myself that I hear my aunt say, Pray Mr. Clark if you should find from your nephew's own account, in addition to what the cockney says, that there is a prospect of the young couple maintaining themselves, even if upon a plan of economy, why not recommend their getting married at once? It may prevent any further anxiety and plague to his friends and relations generally. From the complexion of this business, I do not see how the young man is to effect a safe and honourable retreat, provided she should not think proper to advance.

Observe the Lady's Case, and she is not at the giddy age of 15, but twice that and 5 over. Bill has marked her age as an objection, but I do not admit of its having but a very small influence in considering the principal points. The date of this letter I believe to be my birthday and that I am now plump 32. Bill of course is about 30, which is surely not an awkward distance from 35. Having now furnished you with all the particulars which seem necessary to guide your judging pretty fairly of the business in its present stage, I will drop the subject, and I am afraid I have made my observations too long and tedious for your patience. My own, however, are nearly exhausted, but in a matter of such consequence as the one in question I am always willing to bestow sufficient pains to be well understood.

I received a letter from my brother Anthony the other day which gives me the pleasing information of my mother being pretty well, when it was wrote, which appears to have been a month ago. It acquaints me of my cousins Sam and Thomas Clark paying the necessary attention to the Brewery concern and that there is no grumbling about the partnership account. Their sister, Barbara, it seems, is gone for the summer to receive a Scotch education, but by whom or to whom consigned I do not know. Her sister, Mrs. Sarah Hodgson, I find is likely to lose her husband soon, which I am sorry for. Anthony mentions having been to the funeral of one James Barker, commonly called Jemmy Barker of Sparket or Spark Head. It appears that he lost his life by cutting up a large oak tree, which fell upon him in consequence of a sudden gust of wind. Poor fellow, he little thought that the tree and himself were to fall together.

Yes, 'tis poor Omnium indeed, but why mortify us by laughing at our misfortunes. The Lion *does* seem a little gall'd at seeing so handsome a lot of his prey being so suddenly and unexpectedly swept away. 50,000 at $12\frac{1}{2}$ per Ct. given to Rumney would have enabled him to have been one of the Representatives in Parliament for the County of Cumberland. The stocks are very heavy this morning. Omnium $2\frac{3}{4}$ per Ct. disct. and Mr. Bury thinks they will be worse. I have the pleasure to say my country lodgings' landlady and

I continue to agree very well ; and that I conceive I am infinitely better in lodgings in the country than I should be by sleeping at the South Sea House. Am happy to learn so good an account of your health by Mr. Angell. Mr. Johnson is just come into the city, and has submitted to dispose of 15,000 of the Old Omnium at par and the new is at 3 per Ct. disct. and the 3 per Ct. Consols 63½. It is now supposed that hostilities either have commenced, or will soon, upon the Rhine.

My brother, Tony Lumpkin, in the north, says that from the extraordinary high prices of all sorts of grain and provisions, the farmers in his neighbourhood are getting 'rich apace, and he tells me that he intends turning off all his tenants and undertake the management of the whole of his landed property himself; but says he must have a wife first—which shows that his courage improves a little. He is well situated to take a wife and can afford to keep her in good condition, and I know of no reason why he should not carry the intention immediately into effect. If both my brothers get married before me, which is very likely to be the case, I shall look like Tom Fool indeed. Poor clerks in London have but a poor chance of making a prudent arrangement of this sort, but there are many of them who have not the prudence to let it alone. When I have two brothers and two sisters married the number will complete the four corners for the old childish game—of Tom Fool wants a place, but cannot get one, and I shall have to act

the part of Tom Fool. I hope when Bill pays his next visit at the Vicarage at Highworth, he will present the Holy Oak to your particular notice and attention.

The watch-word at the Old Garrison is, "All's well—Omnium excepted." With my very best respects to my good friend at your right elbow,

I remain, your dutiful nephew
and obedient humble servant.

THOMAS RUMNEY.

Forwarded by Mr. Angell.

London, 14th June, 1796.

MR. EDWARD CLARK.

DEAR UNCLE,

My well-beloved brother has at last condescended to spare me a few minutes of his precious time in dashing over a few lines in reply to my variety of remarks made to him respecting Miss Holyoak, and I have now to say that he has handled the matter in such a manner as to dash the hope I had entertained of bringing about a good thing entirely into pieces, and I am now very sorry that I troubled you or myself so much about it.

It appears to me that Electioneering and Bacchanalian excursions please him much better than sitting down to write, from a sense of gratitude, a sober letter to his friend. He tells me now, with a long face, that Miss H. has but £500, which she cannot demand while her parents are

living, and gives me no answer to my enquiries about her further, so that there is an end of my impertinent solicitations on that head. His voluntary observations about Miss H. were such as both my professional and real friendship for him surely warranted my taking particular notice of. On your referring to my last letter I have no doubt you will be of the same opinion. But his temper is now what it was twenty years ago, when he always passed as my master and would frequently impose on my good nature, but when I thought proper to make a stand I never failed in making Tyranny give way, and I am not disposed to think quite so meanly of myself now as to dread an engagement with him upon terms of reason and prudence. But as everything almost in these times discovers how very desirable peace is, I am freely disposed to prove myself an advocate for it, and in this instance I have no wish to give any further trouble, and wish you to commit this and my last to the flames. And I beg your pardon for having (from an unfortunate zeal to serve my brother) plagued you so much.

He says the Election at Tewksbury induced him to postpone his visit to Highworth, but I presume you will see him ere long. I suppose he is benefited by the late Act of Parliament past in favour of Curates.* I hope it is an object, and that he will think it worth his notice. I am his sincere friend and well-wisher, and shall always be happy to hear

* This Act raised the maximum salary to £75.

of his prudent undertakings and success in life, and that he may rise to a state to be envied and never be reduced to be pitied. I am certainly anxious to see him in a state insured from any risk of calling upon such as may not have it in their power to render him the necessary support. Mr. Trevanion, I have the pleasure to say, is restored to his seat at Dover and has favoured me with a cover for you. With best respects and duty to my aunt and yourself.

I remain your very obedient and
obliged humble servant,
THOMAS RUMNEY.

London, 11th June, 1796.

REV. WILLIAM RUMNEY.

DEAR BROTHER,

I am favoured this morning with your letter of the 9th inst. acknowledging the receipt of and making a general reply to mine of the 25th ultimo. The voluntary remarks respecting Miss Holyoak which yours of the 13th ult. contained were too interesting and affecting to me, to pass over them without particular notice. But be assur'd I have no wish to extort sentiments from you that are at all adverse to your feelings. I spoke from the impulse of the moment.

Your being puzzl'd puzzles me. 'Tis true that it is a matter of the first importance, and of course requires very nice attention, and I shall be very

glad to find for the lady's sake, that you pay it all that it deserves.

I am induced from your own account of Miss Holyoak to think very favourably of her upon the whole. As to the term love I do not conceive that either you or I or Miss H. at this period of our lives are likely to be unfortunately bit by it, although I hope none of us are incapable of loving. Admitting Miss H. to stand affected as is represented, is she not entitled to your commiseration and unremitted attention until time produces your avowal, as being a real advocate for her affection or not? The bystander's answer is Yes, surely. I am far from thinking that you have a wish to impose upon the lady, either by engaging her affections, or endeavouring to occupy her whole attention as to connubial matters. But women, though admirably well formed to entertain man, ought to be sparingly smiled upon in their coquettish humours.

The coolness and long face you have put on as second thoughts, in this novel affair, have changed my ideas upon it much, and I now almost despair of having the pleasure of seeing a new sister anything near the time I had mark'd out. £500 on the fall of the male and female Oaks is something, but not tempting without something handsome from some quarter or another to make a suitable beginning with. I thought the £500 was in the foot of an old stocking of her own, and a sanguine expectation of a noble windfall by-and-by as well as promotion to be obtained in the Church and to crown

the whole, the acquirement of the object herself, so well calculated to make domestick life happy, which I hope will always be the primary consideration with you. Look at Old Square Toes as an example. Sharp Nose by her true love, esteem, and affection has done wonders in making his life easy and comfortable, and may be said to have prolong'd it full 12 or 15 years (in considering the general treatment of wives to their husbands). Young men I am every day more and more convinced are most damnably mistaken in forming their plans for comfort in a married state. They adopt notions full of vanity and pregnant with such unattainable matter that when they step into the engagement they find but shadows instead of substance, consequently get baffled and panick struck, and until quite new model'd and beat heartily with the whip of reason and prudence, they are not fit to fill the domestick seat, or claim a common share of tranquility belonging to that society. Since I wrote to you last I have had a letter from Mr. Clark, now, a week since. He mentions your having announced your intention of paying a visit at the Vicarage, but makes no comments upon it necessary for me to repeat to you, but for your own particular government I think it necessary to mention that he tells me he sent you 5 guineas, when you were a candidate for the Living, and perhaps you might extort (as he calls it) 5 more. His letter is very short and says nothing of his own or Mrs. Clark's health. You say you have adjourned paying your respects to the

Worthies, but do not say when you think it will suit you to go, which I presume you still intend doing ere long, and I wish the Old South Sea House stood in the way, as I cannot say but I have a wish to have some personal conversation with you respecting the different projects you have in view.

I beg leave to inform you that in my last letter to my uncle a few days ago, I took some notice of your having cast a sheepish eye at a Miss Holyoak, whom I thought, from the little I knew of her, to be tolerably well calculated to make a comfortable companion for you, and that I supposed he would find you inclined to discuss the matter before him, and pay some deference to his opinion.

I supposed from your delay in answering my letter, you would be by your uncle's fireside when my letter reached him, and that it would afford you some mirth to find the Cockney talk so freely upon the subject of matrimony. I think it not improbable but that our mutual friend may ask you two or three blunt plain questions, such as—"Who is Miss Holyoak? What are her parents, and what are their circumstances, connections, and disposition towards their daughter? What is there to be laid hold of in hard cash on the Nuptial Day, and what to follow it? Any Church interest in the way? Have you made any professions of love to Miss, and what are your prospects of being happy with her? Can you maintain yourselves in credit according to the cloth upon your back?" I say such sort of questions might come from him, but I

am persuaded neither diffidence nor difficulty would arise in your answering, and acquitting yourself like an honest man before him. If you feel a pleasure in encouraging the wish of forming a sound and honourable attachment to Miss H., pump your friends on both sides as to the ways and means for a supply. Miss H.'s friends must of course think of doing something on such an event, and your Reverend Brothers might say in compliment to you on so important and prudent an arrangement—Here's a purse containing so many guineas. I am glad to hear of your success in behalf of your friend, Mr. Martin, at Tewksbury.

Francis is a Johnson and Johnson is a Francis. I hope the dinner Mr. Martin gave the other day afforded you much mirth and enjoyment. Mr. Francis, I am told, attended a dinner party (one day last week given by Mr. Combe,* a newly elected member for our City) at the London Tavern, and on his rising to make a formal speech, a cry of Martin, Martin, Martin! prevailed much, and the great man was a little disconcerted. I have pleasure in your calling Mr. Martin friend, and should be glad to hear of your partaking of it more to advantage than the mere treat of roast beef, plum pudding, a glass of wine, etc. I hope to hear a pleasing account of the introduction of his nephew into his new office, and that you have settled your own business with him to

* Harvey Christian Combe, many years an Alderman and M.P. for the City of London.

advantage. The new Act of Parliament I also hope will afford a pleasant sort of relief. Your next visit into Warwickshire I also hope to hear a particularly good account of. I had a letter from our brother Anthony, dated five weeks ago. It mentioned our mother being pretty well, provisions dear, his intention of managing all his own landed property, his wish to be married, Jemmy Barker of Sparkhead having lost his life in stubbing up an oak tree which fell upon him etc. Farewell, Parson.

THOMAS RUMNEY.

Forwarded on the 14 inst.

London, 4th June, 1796.

REV. EDWARD CLARK.

DEAR SIR,

I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your very obliging letter of the 18th inst. by which I was truly glad to hear of the fate that had attended my last. I had formed many unpleasant conjectures upon it on finding the culprit was likely to be informed of an impeachment from a quarter quite unsuspected. Your having effectually destroyed my powder and ball and carefully avoided discovering any symptoms at all hostile or treacherous towards the young emperor was quite right and I am much obliged to you for having treated it with so much delicacy. I am also glad to hear of your having thought proper to recommend my brother Will to follow up the matrimonial scheme, respecting which I have nothing further to say at present, as I have not

heard from him since he paid his respects to you and Mrs. Clark. I wrote him a very long and serious letter of the date of my last to you, but I fancy he would not get it before his return from Highworth. I shall be glad to find that he pays a decent attention to it. I do not want to extort improper sentiments from him, or enter into a paper war, but I have a right to expect attention to such observations as are civil and consistent with the subject attached to existing circumstances. I never was a pragmatistical fellow and I hope never thought capable of mean insinuation. It always has, and I trust ever will be, a pleasure to me to guard against being branded with such opprobrious implications. I have executed your little commission in collecting together and forwarding herewith Kearsley's Tax Tables, the Curate's Act, and the Country Curate's Pamphlet upon it: which I hope you will receive safe and in time to answer your purpose. I had quite a hunt for the Co. Curate's Pamphlet. At last I stumbled in at the printers of it, No. 25, Paternoster Row. The cost of the whole is only 2s. 2d. viz.

The Curate's Act	...	...	6d.	} 2/2
The Co. Curate's Pamphlet	...	1s.	od.	
Kearsley's Tax Tables	...	os.	8d.	

I should have been quite glad to have sent them by Dr. Marsh but I believe he had set off from hence, on his return home, before your letter reached me. I had the pleasure to see him at our Compting House, and thought him much

improved in his looks since we last saw him in London, and I was glad to be informed by him that both yourself and my aunt were well when he left Highworth. I am very sorry to hear of poor Nanny being so alarmingly indisposed, and cannot help sympathising with you and Mrs. C. upon it.

Mr. Johnson sets off to-morrow for Cheltenham for the benefit of his health and proposes staying a fortnight. Omnium rears its head a little, but is still in a very languid consumptive state.

I have had a narrow escape for my life by going incautiously into the water to bathe. I plunged in headlong out of my depth, but by peculiar exertion recovered my foothold. It was my first dip this season, but I shall be more careful for the time to come. We have charming weather now for the hay harvest, which will be nearly finished in the course of the ensuing week near London. I have much pleasure in surveying the labourers at work in the hay fields, as I walk along, but I think them both exceedingly awkward and idle compared to our Cumbrians. I have the vanity to think I could outstrip the best of them.

Wishing all my fellow creatures much benefit from the sunshine, and to be mindful of its inestimable favours, I remain,

Dear uncle and aunt,

Your much obliged nephew
and obedient humble servt.

THOMAS RUMNEY.

Forwarded by waggon with some papers.

CHAPTER II

TONY LUMPKIN

London, 17th June, 1796.

MR. ANTHONY RUMNEY.

DEAR BROTHER,

In conformity to what I have always professed, of acquainting you with fresh occurrences either of a domestick or interesting nature I have now to sit down to say that since the date of the very long letter I sent you by Mr. Dixon a good deal of letter writing has taken place between your two brothers, Tom and Will, and your uncle Edward, in consequence of Bill having thrown out some hints in a late letter to me, of his having paid some attention to a lady who had evinced the most undoubted attachment to him with the view of engaging his attention to a change of condition. This news gave me pleasure, and I felt willing to undertake to make the most of it, in endeavouring to bring about a good thing to all the parties concerned. Bill having told me that he had thoughts of going over to see his uncle and aunt at Highworth ere long, but did not think he should have courage to mention anything about this new

matter, I immediately took up my pen and wrote a very long and circumstantial account of the whole of the business that had come to my knowledge to Mr. Clark in order to prepare him to discuss it effectually in Bill's presence, and that he might have an opportunity of serving him essentially with his instructions, opinion, and advice, and at the same time I gave him *my* opinion in those words, viz. "That William Rumney might go further and fare worse." I also wrote another long letter to Bill himself in which I carefully and coolly pointed out to him, in reply to his voluntary remarks to me, the necessity I conceived there was of his acting in it, in a very cautious circumspect manner, and that I really thought on jumbling such circumstances together, as appeared proper to draw rational conclusions from, the lady in question well calculated to make him happy in a married state, and that I also thought her well worth his accepting. Having thus primed Old Square Toes and his nephew, I waited anxiously to know the result of their meeting, which I find took place about ten days ago. I have had a letter from the former, but not a single line from the latter since, which I am sorry for, as I do not know how to account for it. The Pistol with which I furnished the Old Boy was certainly well loaded and likely to do execution in the hands of so able an engineer, and as Bill had to act upon the defensive, and to wait in compliment to his adversary for his firing first, 'tis possible he may have been wounded

mortally, but I trust, in God, it is not the case. Mr. Clark's letter, dated yesterday week, is so very short that I cannot learn much from it, but he evidently coincides with me in opinion, and both he and Mrs. Clark have recommended his following up the business closely and Mr. Clark says he has given him 5 guineas in his pocket to go to Wolverhampton,—where the lady is now on a visit—but it seems he used but little ceremony in speaking his mind to him as he says in my letter that he told him he had had his full share of his property, that he would never be worth a groat, and that if he should marry a lady that had money, he would soon spend it for her. These observations are certainly very pointed and severe, but I fancy nothing short of them would have had any effect upon him. I am sorry to say that he is likely to lose his present curacy soon, but not from any demerit or misconduct of his, but in consequence of his new Vicar being disposed to officiate in doing the whole of the duty himself. This happens unlucky and I am afraid will flatten his spirits a little. Such are the events with him at present as gives an appearance of this being a grand crisis in the course of his lifetime, and I do most sincerely wish the change may be such as to insure to himself future comfort and advantage, and give all his friends and relations joy and satisfaction. His towering spirit has hitherto been a torment both to himself and his best friends, and may be called a misfortune in our family. My uncle and I have

had a full share of the unhappy effects of it, and to whom of course a favourable change, with the prospect of his never again being in any shape troublesome to his friends, would be an inexpressible satisfaction. I assure you I do most ardently wish to see him warranted free from making the repeated calls on his friends (that he does not hesitate to do at present for money) before his worthy uncle's both head, heart, and purse are no longer to be resorted or referred to. I have much pleasure in saying the good gentleman enjoys good health at present, but he may be snatched suddenly away, and we have no reason to expect that he will survive more than a very few years longer. I am willing to believe that you can readily both anticipate and participate with me on this score and beg leave to join you in the hope that no unpleasant conjectures may eventually happen. When William Rumney does write to me, which I trust will be in a day or two, (and I will not close this letter until then in order to let you know further respecting him) I shall be able to form a strong idea what his main objects of immediate pursuit are, and if he relished his visit to Highworth.

29th June—Two long days have transpired and no letter yet, which makes me a little uneasy about him—as he wrote me a few lines on his setting off from Overbury to Highworth, and told me he would write again soon about what transpired between his uncle and him, add to which the long

letter he would find from me on his return to Overbury, expressive of the greatest anxiety and affection for him under his present important circumstances. And how he could lay it aside one day without making me a suitable reply I am at a loss to conjecture. Gratitude must be out of the question, for such sort of wilful neglect is not common civility between man and man.

However, as I cannot look upon him as quite a regular, consistent character, I am inclined to make some allowance, and still flatter myself all may be well with him. He may be gone to Wolverhampton to bring home the Holyoak, but as a letter of his seems not to take up more of his time than a few minutes, I cannot excuse him, although a lady was in the case. If he should have the good luck to get married to this virtuous, prudent woman, I hope you will not hesitate a moment to quit the tail of your plow to come up to the Metropolis to accompany me to celebrate the union and salute our new sister cordially; and I shall be exceedingly rejoiced to see Mrs. Anthony Rumney along with you, and I would willingly join the group in mounting a favourite mare as well as my brothers, if the London market suited my pocket. But if I have not money, or am otherwise situated to maintain one for life, I can hire an excellent hack for temporary use, and may come in for the Plate first perhaps. Cocknies are generally poor horsemen, and as I am quite out of practice in riding, I'm afraid I should look exceedingly

awkward between the north and west countrymen. But, if I am to exhibit, I should be glad of the longest time possible to get some instructions and properly equipped for the glorious event. I am not rich, but I would willingly knock down as many guineas as I could spare on the occasion. The idea of a visit to Highworth, and presenting Mrs. Anthony to Mrs. Will Rumney, to Old Square Toes and Sharp Nose, would go down with the Man of Grief cockney like a cordial. If I could persuade myself that this would come to pass soon, I fancy I should not sleep sound till it had taken place.

Thursday morning, 30th June. I have now real pleasure in telling you that a letter is this moment come to hand from my brother William by which it appears that he has been so much hurried and drove about in this matrimonial concern that he could not sit down composed to write to me sooner. I will tell you the whole of his communications to me respecting it in the most brief and explicit manner I am able. He says the discussion of it at Highworth relished very well and they were all hearty in the cause; on his return from thence he visited Miss Holyoak at whose particular request he went last Thursday to pay his respects to her uncle, by whom he was exceedingly well received, and from a general conversation with him it appears that old Square Toes must come down upon the Nail with Five Hundred Pounds in order to meet Mr. Holyoak to purchase a living to begin with; and if this cannot

be accomplished the business must fall to the ground. Bill has wrote to his uncle for his answer to this important question. I understand that Mr. Holyoak has taken from Bill his uncle's address, and also yours in order perhaps to write to both—to make enquiries—and Bill has desired me to write to you for him, and to tell you that if Mr. Holyoak should write to you, he recommends your delaying to return him an answer until you have consulted either with himself or me upon it; which may be quite necessary from what may have been said between Mr. Holyoak and Bill, when together. Bill has not patience to write sufficiently explicit. Now, I can hardly guess what can be meant by your being wrote to by Mr. Holyoak, but imagine to ask what account you can give of your consequence in life, as to the value of your landed property, in bulk or annually; perhaps he has told Mr. Holyoak that your estates are worth a handsome sum annually. You may also be asked what are your prospects and general dealings in life. All this is mere conjecture with me, but I am willing to assist in it as much as possible. But whatever may be the subject of Mr. Holyoak's letter, if you should be wrote to, I trust you will give Bill and me leave to coin an answer to it. I recommend your writing to me that I may catch the information on its way to Bill, and you may be assured of my sending it on by the same post; by which not a moment of time will be lost, and perhaps much gained by it. I am much agitated

respecting the bold solicitation from Bill to our uncle, and I believe I shall write immediately to the old gentleman to endeavour to make it digest the better. I shall not (as I have no business to) give advice, but a modest opinion accompanied with a perfect knowledge of occurrences may be kindly and thankfully received, which I believe has been the case in my late communications under similar circumstances.

The 1st of July. I *did* write to Mr. Clark last night in the strongest but most delicate manner I possibly could in Bill's behalf. I have done everything in assisting him in this affair, and dare not go one step further at present. Would it not be best to send Mr. Holyoak's letter inclosed to me, if you should have one, from which an answer might be manufactured in the south and sent down to you to be copied and forwarded? Your letter of the 27th ult. is come to hand. I am quite sorry to hear of your being so cruelly tormented with the rheumatism, but am glad you are getting better and wish you quite well and soon. Am glad to hear my mother is well and that the tea got safe to hand. Betty is of an extraordinary and unhappy temper. Encourage her to get married, pray. It may have a happy effect. Mr. Robinson's conduct in the business you speak of appears singular, but no doubt he had his reasons for it and every man has a right to dispose of his own property as he may please, but should avoid giving cause to any one to complain of being both disappointed and injured materially.

What! have you not overrated the odds in saying "'tis as much as 10 to 1 that you ever get married at all!" Ha! ha! ha! I have spun out this letter to an enormous length and have exposed a part of it to the eye of the curious and busy, but hope you will receive it safe.

If anything extraordinary occurs respecting Bill and my uncle you shall hear again soon, and if you should be call'd on in the business, whatever it may be, let me beg of you to lose no time in giving me an account of it, but everything rests with Old Square Toes.

I am still very thin and ill-looking, but have, thank God, tolerable spirits. Pray give my duty to my mother, and if you should think this letter or any part of it proper either to show or read to her, pray do it. I hope you do not destroy my letters, but if you have hitherto, I will thank you to preserve them in future. 'Tis possible some points in certain instances may be cleared up by having them to refer to. I know of nothing of the kind likely to happen at present, but time brings many unforeseen matters to pass.

I met Mr. Taylor's brother at Stainton about ten days ago who said he was going home next day in a postchaise and seemed so ill that I fancy he would not arrive alive.

I am yours

duly and truly

THOMAS RUMNEY.

CHAPTER III

INTRIGUE

London, 30th June, 1796.

REV. EDWARD CLARK.

DEAR UNCLE,

Having wrote to you so lately as the 24th inst., I am almost ashamed to trouble you again so soon; but such is the kind of letter I have been favoured with this morning from my brother William, that in justice to my feelings I cannot help embracing the first opportunity of letting you know the substance of it. It is dated at Overbury two days ago, and informs me that he went to Morton last week, and at the particular request of Miss Holyoak waited upon her uncle at Tetten Hall last Thursday, by whom he was kindly received and well treated, and that upon conversing freely and candidly upon the momentous matter pending between Miss Holyoak and himself it appeared (to make short of the story and not to mince it) that the uncle of the former requested, or rather thought it essential, that the uncle of the latter should, in order to complete the treaty, hand over a purse containing so many pounds or

guineas as to be called a pretty round sum to be added to so much more from another quarter as would not only purchase a living, but render the necessary assistance in putting them on a genteel and respectable footing. How far you may think proper or be inclined to grant the requisite supply is beyond the reach of my conception, and I can have no business with it. But I most humbly beg leave to repeat that to see my brother settled, either by a change of condition or upon any permanent footing, would render a heartfelt satisfaction to his brother Thomas; and as to the business now upon the carpet, I should be exceedingly sorry in this stage of it, to hear of any insurmountable bar to prevent its being carried into execution.

My brother tells me he has wrote to you, so that of course you are made acquainted with the leading points and what proportion of the weight rests on your shoulders, and it would relieve me of much anxiety to be informed if you are inclined to treat us with a sight of the grand procession of the nuptial group, by paving the way.

I am sorry time will not allow of my saying much more about it at present. The lady's uncle, who seems to be the principal negotiator, having taken your address of Bill, I presume you will hear from him soon. With my kindest wishes to Mrs. Clark,

I remain, etc.

THOMAS RUMNEY.

London, 1 July, 1796.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

MY DEAR WILL,

I cannot any longer deny myself the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of, and thanking you for your favour of the 28th ult., which came to hand yesterday. I observe with admiration the progress you have made in galloping through the business now upon the anvil, and congratulate you on the successful steps you have made, and hope those to follow to complete it will be equally satisfactory. As you have given me no account of anything that transpired on the subject between the old vicar and you when you were at Highworth, I am not prepared so well as I presume you are to judge how far it is likely your wishes and recent application may be complied with. £500 is undoubtedly a round sum for him to furnish, and I fancy would be treated by some hungry spectators as a very liberal and partial donation. But I wish you to be assured that so far from my being of that disposition in the matter that I heartily wish that our worthy and mutual friend may grant your petition freely, and in order to give you a proof of the truth of my assertion, I have to tell you that I wrote to Mr. Clark by last night's post, and strongly, but delicately, suggested my earnest wish to see the momentous matter now pending between you and

Miss Holyoak happily arranged, and that I trusted no insurmountable bar would be erected by him to prevent its being carried into execution forthwith. This step I took from conceiving my uncle *might*, from such an avowal of sentiment feel himself something more at liberty to bleed in your cause. I always felt the strongest propensity to further your comfort and success in this world, and am now as much stimulated as ever I was. Perhaps I may hear from my uncle in the course of a few days, and be informed what he is really disposed to do for you in this important affair, but I beg I may hear from you the very day you receive his answer to your last letter to him. I trust that neither he nor you may suffer yourselves to act precipitately in the treatment of so serious a business. Should the old gentleman turn ever a deaf ear to your solicitation I hope you will exercise the philosophy many a disappointed man has done before you under similar circumstances. I have prepared a very long letter to Anthony and have mentioned the whole of your matrimonial affair to him, and carefully attended to your request. Should Mr. Holyoak write to him, I should be quite ashamed and alarmed at the idea of his returning an answer without the necessary assistance of you or I, or both of us. I had a letter from him this morning and am sorry to say he has been laid up with the rheumatism for some time, but is getting better by having applied to the Doctor. His letter is not very interesting

or I would give a further account of it. Our mother is pretty well. I should have been glad to have been in your company on the occasion you speak of from the idea of its being of service if ever so small, but as Miss observed—another time may come. I hope you will not be much injured by the spiteful enemy you speak of in a certain quarter. I certainly *was* extremely anxious to hear from you, and was fearful some unlucky accident had happened to prevent your writing, but I hope you will not keep me in so painful a suspense in future. I hope Miss Holyoak is quite well; and if it was not premature to call her sister, I should be happy in making my compliments accordingly.

Believe me,

your loving and affectionate Brother,

THOMAS RUMNEY.

London, 7th July, 1796.

REV. EDW. CLARK.

DEAR UNCLE,

Mr. Rutter and I have agreed to supply you with Twenty Pounds of your own money, and I have availed myself of the opportunity of handing it to you in a Bank Note which is enclosed. Mr. R. has desired me to make his compliments to you and to say that he has found the Power of Attorney and received the dividend which I think he said was about £8. I have waited on Mr. Ewer and given him a memorandum

of the Ham and he has promised to pay the required attention to it.

Such is the insurmountable Barrier of Defence that now appears in the cause in which I had voluntarily embarked in, in behalf of the plaintiff, that I have no longer any wish to plead, and shall think myself well off in effecting my retreat without a broken head. In this business I have, however, the consolation to say I acted from the most self-disinterested motives possible. I was not solicited; neither had I in view any fee or reward whatever, but that of gaining a pleasure to reflect upon of having done some good without doing harm. But the unpleasant information of your having from time to time dropped such an enormous sum into my brother's bottomless pocket shows how feeble any attempt to render even the smallest service must have been: and I trust you will do me the justice to believe, that I was not aware that your generosity to my brother amounted to near the sum you mention.

I had supposed it might be about half, but could not have persuaded myself that it was so much as $\frac{2}{3}$ rds. I really am ashamed in having been so busy and troublesome to you in this affair for which I again beg your pardon, and assure you I will take care to prevent such disturbance on my part in future, and I wish my brother may be both willing and able to settle the matrimonial affair to the perfect satisfaction of all parties concerned, but I am much afraid that I shall

hear of the lady's case being pitiable. I'm sorry to hear of your loss in poor Nanny. I had a letter from my brother Anthony, dated 27th ult. by which I had the pleasure to be informed that my mother was in tolerable health and spirits, but that he himself had been laid up with the rheumatism in his leg and thigh for a whole week, and could not get relief without applying to the Doctor. He mentions a singular circumstance respecting Mr. Robinson of Watermillock, who, he says, has sold the whole of that estate to his youngest sister, Nanny, in order to deprive the heir at law of it, whose name is Hutchinson and who has received a college education and is intended for a clergyman, and is not reported to have given his friends any reason to be displeased with his conduct.

On calling at Mr. Rutter's a second time for the £20, Mr. Morris tells me that he has wrote to you and inclosed you Bank Notes, value £20, and says that you and he do not agree in the current account by about £30 which is in your favour. Mr. Trevanion* excused himself granting me a frank this morning by saying that his list was full for the day.

Mr. Johnson has found no benefit from the Cheltenham waters and is gone on to Buxton in Derbyshire.

The Fleet not being come in yet from the West Indies, the sugar box for my aunt stands empty. Pray give my best respects to her and let her know

* John Trevanion, M.P. for Dover, and a Baron of the Cinque Ports.

that I fully intend sending it as soon as I can get it fill'd.

I remain, dear uncle,

Your obliged nephew

and humble servant

THOMAS RUMNEY.

London, 8th July, 1796.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

I return you my thanks for the trouble you have taken in copying off your uncle's reply to your last letter to him, by which I am sorry to observe the verdict is given so flatly against you. You seem to attribute it entirely to the intrigue of the prejudiced female of whose conduct towards you I never knew so much before. What you mention respecting Miss M. is certainly not a little extraordinary, but take my advice for once. Neither endeavour to take any revenge, nor show any symptoms of being wounded by your received opinion of Mrs. C.'s conduct. It certainly would be the worst of policy to offer to commence any hostile measures in that quarter. Madam there would certainly at last be found to have the higher ground of you, and the garrison would not, I fancy, be made to surrender upon any satisfactory terms. You say very little of the manner in which you digest Mr. Clark's letter in lumping it. I have perused it over and over again, and certainly

acquit him of any degree of incivility : his observations, though extremely rough and pointed, are quite consistent and conformable with his general treatment of matters of such a nature ever since I had any knowledge of him. But as to that part of the business, wherein it appears they both recommended your pursuing and pushing home the matter so strongly, and afterwards seemingly wishing not to be seen in it, is to me very extraordinary. I conceive 'tis to be lamented that a more clear understanding did not take place between you when you were at Highworth, which might have prevented your feeling induced to encourage Miss and her family to entertain sanguine hopes of the business soon terminating favourably. I only suppose you to have treated it in this manner from its being somewhat natural, but I may be mistaken and I hope I am. You do not say that you are inclined to make further observations to Mr. Clark, either in reply to his letter, or respecting the awkwardness of your situation with Miss Holyoak and her friends. What I recommended in a former letter I now beg leave to repeat viz. your avoiding as much as possible to act precipitately. The old gentleman is avowedly your sincere friend and well wisher, and I am sure I need not tell you what mode of conduct to pursue to derive the most benefit from him.

Mr. Clark's beneficent attention to his relations and his generosity to them, which is proved from his having put his hand into his pocket so often,

makes him at once a wonder of the present day. You and I cannot, I am persuaded, find a character within the reach of our eye or recollection whose hand and heart has been so freely devoted to the promotion and welfare of near relations as our worthy uncle, and I hope time will not erase a grateful sense of it from our memory, and that we may feel induced to follow his example.

I think you and I ought to have the modesty to acknowledge that he has fulfilled every pretention and claim we could have upon him from his professions of friendship towards us from the hour he undertook to transplant us to the present, and whatever division he may have made of part of his property in favour of his own relations, we ought for ever to be thankful for and perfectly satisfied. The very great difference of soil on which he planted us, must, you know, account for the difference in the expense incurr'd between the one and the other in the culture, and (if impartiality is to be admitted) must ultimately be taken into the general account. Your education has unavoidably cost considerably more than I either have spent or could have prudent occasion for, in the very limited and crippled situation I have all along contented myself to submit to, and in taking up the matter in this point of view, it is to be supposed you have, or at least you ought to have had, the advantage of me very materially. For if a sum of money is put out at common interest it yields 5 to 6 per cent., but if put into trade, as yours may be considered to

have been, much more is expected from the opportunity of taking advantage of occurrences. Now it may be observed that you have had the advantage of me in having been able to bring your cash to market so much sooner than myself, and that if you have not been in the habit of receiving the interest annually, or yet have had the return of it at all, you still are benefited ultimately. I do not, my dear boy, wish you to suppose that, in making these sort of remarks, I have even a wish to set up a claim to participate with you to a fraction of the good gentleman's purse. No, I have no such uneasy bile upon my stomach, but am, on this head, *now*, just what I was when we were playfellows. You may perhaps recollect the manner in which I withheld gorging my fairing from Penrith, *i.e.* that I might have the pleasure of giving you a part, after you had devoured your own. I am happy in applying this remark, as I could have brought nothing so near from my heart to suit so well on this occasion.

Mr. Clark appears very candid and discovers much to you in his letter, and tells you that something remains for you still, which is *something* gained in consequence of this bustle, in which I do not apprehend any harm is done, except to Miss H. whose situation I am fearful is pitiable, and I beg you will have the goodness to let me know something about it soon, for, as I feel for you, I cannot help feeling for her in proportion. Perhaps the negotiation is not yet at an end, and that

the lady's friends may effect the arrangement somehow.

I do not hear that her uncle has wrote to Mr. Clark or to Anthony. Your next may explain the general circumstances of the affair more fully, and I should be glad to know what prospect you have of jumping into a new curacy. I wish I did know of a good fat one that could be obtained for you. I had a few lines from Mr. Clark on Tuesday, directing me to call at Mr. Rutter's and on Ewer, cheesemonger, and he told me he could not fulfill your request, that he had lost his servant, Nanny, etc. Mr. Richd. Jones informs us that he is charmingly in health and has taken up his function again.

Knowing you to be manly, and master of much philosophy, I will not mention condolence on the recent bad success you have met with, but believe me, I am sorry for it, and hope you will soon be able to tell me that all's well with you and yours.

I am your affectionate Brother
and sincere well wisher

THOMAS RUMNEY.

Hampstead, 13th July, 1796.

REV. MR. GRANT.

SIR,

The very singular treatment I met with from the Pew Opener at the Chapel, where you preached last Sunday, in the afternoon, induces me to take the liberty of acquainting you with it.

I was shown into a seat situated in the Ile upon the left, immediately under the organ, where I conceive servants and strangers are generally accommodated, but I had not remained longer than a few minutes, when I was abruptly ordered out by a male attendant, and just at the moment you were beginning the service. Not having any other place or seat offer'd me I quitted the Chapel immediately, and under the strongest impression of mortification and disappointment I ever remember to have experienced.

I am a bachelor and a temporary resident of Hampstead only. I have, however, lodged here five months, during which time I have regularly attended either your Church or your Chapel, not only once, but generally twice on the Sabbath Day, in doing which I observe I am somewhat singular, but from a sense of its being my duty, as well as feeling a secret satisfaction in it, I am happy in the pursuit. But circumstanced as I am it appears I am no longer to be gratified at Hampstead. A pecuniary compliment to the Pew Opener occasionally has always hitherto procured me a decent accommodation, and in the present instance I cannot allow of its having been entirely forgotten. It is, however, a thing I cannot say I approve of, as I have known it operate shamefully, in some instances as extortion, in others as preventing individuals from attending the place appointed for the sacred performance of religious duty, when opportunities might be embraced, which

to many in and near this Metropolis are but few.

I feel so much at a loss and embarrassed as to the mode of conduct to be adopted in future that I should be very thankful and obliged to you for your assistance in directing me what to do, where to apply etc.

I am, Revd. Sir,

Your Obedient hum. servt.,

THOS. RUMNEY.

at Mrs. Kirk's, Holly Bush Hill,
Hampstead.

Forwarded by penny post from London.

Old South Sea House, 15 July, 1796.

REV. EDWARD CLARK.

REV. SIR,

Mr. Jones having just told me that Mrs. Gale intends setting off for Highworth this afternoon, I beg leave to avail myself of the opportunity it affords me of acquainting you and my aunt with an extraordinary circumstance that has recently occurred with me, respecting which the inclosed copy of letter, the original sent to Mr. Grant yesterday morning, will give you a general information. When I went home last night I had the pleasure of being informed that Mr. Grant had call'd at my lodgings immediately after having received my letter, and left word that he would call again, and which he did between 9 and 10

o'clock. He gave me full credit for my assertions and expressed his sorrow and astonishment at what had happened, and said, that for my satisfaction as well as his own, he was disposed to discharge both the man and woman from his service, but I begged of him not to carry his resentment so far on my account, and said that I was perfectly satisfied with the explanation he had so obligingly taken the trouble to favour me with.

Although Hampstead is not a large village there is both a Church and a Chapel in it, and Mr. Grant, who has lived there many years, says that he and another clergyman rent the Chapel (which he observed was an unprofitable concern) and that the Pew Opener has his particular orders to always accommodate strangers with a seat, but on their coming a second time to be given to understand that they could not have the use of a seat without paying the clergyman for it, and that I find cannot be done without hiring it for a whole year at the cost of 10s. 6d. Now the poor simple fellow, the Pew Opener, notwithstanding he had courage both to reprehend his wife for letting me into the seat and to turn me out of it, seemed not to have enough to carry him through the business in taking care of himself. I even gave him a favourable opportunity of explaining himself, but he sneak'd off. I believe, for once in my life, I put on an extremely imperious look, as if disappointed, or call'd away from the most delicious dish with a keen appetite. With regard to fees being given,

Mr. Grant said he had endeavoured to prevent as much as possible the practice of it, and was sorry it was not entirely abolished.

Thus has the affair been handled, and I hope you will see no reason to blame me for the steps I have taken in it. I cannot afford to rent a seat for the whole year, and being a bird of passage, I cannot prudently make the engagement, but there are thousands in a similar situation who must not, or, however, in my humble opinion ought not, to be shut out of any house of religious worship.

Mrs. Kirk having met with a better friend to her pocket has turned me out for the present, but she has procured me a lodging in her neighbourhood where I am tolerably comfortable. I however continue my clerkship in her kitchen, by which I am sanguine in being restored to my respectable station under her roof the first opportunity. Pray give my best respects to my aunt Jane, and tell her that her nephew Tom from his being in the habit of walking after the rate of 3000 and upwards of miles in the year, feels both his body and mind improved a little, and thinks it would be quite a treat both to her and himself were she to spend a few days upon Holly Bush Hill, and take a survey of the variety of the beautifully cultivated scenes that surround it. No extraordinary news is come to hand since my last from the counties of Cumberland, Gloucestershire, or Warwickshire. Mr. Johnson is yet at Buxton, a letter came to hand from him this morning, which says he has

derived much benefit from bathing, and that he expects to be in town by this day week, but I am afraid we shall have a shocking account to give him of Omnium. I am sorry to say Mr. Jones is not very well this morning.

I remain, dear uncle and aunt,

Your very much obliged and

obedt. humble servt.,

THOMAS RUMNEY.

Forwarded by Mrs. Gale.

London, 20th July, 1796.

MR. THOMAS LANCASTER.

(Alexandria in Virginia.)

DEAR SIR,

I sit down to write to you, not a little ashamed of my almost unpardonable neglect towards you in not having even acknowledged the receipt of several of your favours, which came to my hands in the course of last year, none of which I have at hand now to refer to, and I am sorry to say my memory does not serve to recollect their contents so as to answer them particularly.

You mentioned your intention of commencing business in a commercial line, in which I hope you have been able to make a pretty snug establishment, and derived a benefit from it at least equal to your most sanguine expectation. About the time I received that information Mr. William

Stoddart was in London, and I understood you had applied to him to correspond with you, and from the idea of your being old cronies it induced me to relax in my attention to you a little. Both as to matters of business and as a quondam acquaintance I could not but conceive him materially better calculated to give you satisfaction than myself, and I hope you have received all the friendly attention from him that your mind required to be gratified with. He would, I presume, inform you of the death of some of your near relations. I have often felt sorry for our loss of your cousin Billy, who, poor fellow, was at all times perfectly good-natured and obliging. Miss Lancaster sent to me for your address several months ago by a little man whose name I do not recollect, and I furnished him with it and suppose 'twas right. I have an idea some person told me a little time ago that you either were married or not far from it. If 'tis true that you have jumped into the Hymeneal state, I congratulate you upon it very sincerely, and wish you all possible comfort in it. Mr. Carleton and I live in the usual manner and are likely to remain bachelors some time longer. He lodges in the Old South Sea House in my apartments, and I have lodgings at Hampstead for the benefit of my health, which is a little impaired by my sedentary situation. I do not know of any extraordinary occurrences with such of your acquaintances here, as I have a knowledge of and as I conceive you are informed of publick

matters through the channel of the newspapers, I am afraid you will scarce have patience to peruse the few lines I have sent you. I am struck with the idea that on casting your eye over it you'll snatch it up and throw it into the fire, and call it dmd. insipid stuff. I have not paid a visit to my native home yet, and at present have no prospect of being so far gratified. I am in want of both time and money to accomplish it. My brother Bill is still a poor curate in Gloucestershire. He has lately made an attempt to get married into a respectable family, but has failed in not being able to take his friends in, for a handsome sum of money. His uncle tells me he has cost him £1500, and the young gentleman has the modesty to apply boldly for £500 more.

Richardson is still on board the Savage sloop of war, now in the Downs, and I have the pleasure to say is in pretty good spirits. Henderson is pretty well, I believe, and takes the best care he can to keep out of the Gazette, which many of our young tradesmen, from the present depression of the times, are obliged to step into. Three per cent. Consols are a little under par, say 69. A stronger proof I cannot give you of John Bull being in a sickly consumptive state; but Billy [Pitt] still wants to persuade us all's tolerably well, and we ought not to be panick struck or alarmed.

I shall be glad to hear from you, and to have an account of your health and welfare, and how

matters have occur'd recently with you and yours.

I remain, Dear Sir,

Your friend and sincere well wisher.

THOMAS RUMNEY.

Sent by the *Sally*, Captain Keith, which will sail in a few days.

CHAPTER IV

MOSTLY FINANCIAL

London, 20th July, 1796.

MR. GEO. TRIMBLE,*

Thursby, Nr. Carlisle, Cumberland.

DEAR BROTHER AND SISTER,

I am willing to make you believe that I cannot erase you from my memory, by writing you a few lines every now and then, but perhaps I am not perfectly welcome in so doing, as you give me no reason to suppose that a letter is acceptable, or that you ever receive any of my letters. I understand my brother Anthony was with you a few weeks since, but he has sent me no message from you, nor any account how you and your family are, which I am sorry to confess is not at all satisfactory. I have always felt particularly desirous of making myself agreeable to all my relations, and have never relaxed in my attention to them since I left the North, which is now nearly 13 years ago. It is not from any private interested views that induces me to correspond with my near relations, but merely a sense of good-will and affection

* A Brother-in-law of T. R.

towards them, and in which I have endeavoured to prove myself as impartial as possible. I still remain a bachelor and at present have no prospect of changing my condition, but I hope the time will come when I may have the honour of being a wedded fellow and two or three about me as well as yourselves. I had an idea a little time back that both my brothers, Anthony and William, would have got married in the course of the present year, but now I am of a very different opinion: the former seems too modest and the latter too bold. Bill, however, would have galloped through the business about a fortnight ago in full speed, had not his uncle Square Toes fix'd a bar that prevents his proceeding one step further. It seems he has a lady ready, but £500 is wanted before he can be allow'd to take possession of her, and Mr. Clark has refused to advance it. I certainly should have been heartily glad to have seen him settled, but cannot blame his uncle who has paid already a very large sum for him from time to time. Will's spirit has unfortunately always been higher than his purse. I think him, however, a little more moderate, and hope time will make him more so. I have interfered between him and his uncle much in this late affair in order to make a desirable arrangement in it, and altho' it has not taken place yet—neither will it I fancy—I hope I have gained the good-will of both. I have a reason for thinking his uncle has reserved something for him in his Will, notwithstanding what he

has already advanced, and I fancy it will be discovered when that good gentleman is no more that the young Emperor has partook of his guineas more than any other relation of his. I have the pleasure to say both Mr. and Mrs. Clark are in tolerable health and spirits. Mr. Clark is surprisingly improved latterly and performs his accustomed church duty again.

I now lodge at Hampstead, which is five miles out of London, and always walk to and fro, which I find of some benefit to my health, which is a little impaired by the sedentary situation I am still in in the City. I am very thin and look quite consumptive, but, thank God, enjoy tolerable spirits. I am not getting rich, but am doing better than heretofore, and expect to put something into the Bank of England at the year's end which is undoubtedly the best thing that can be done with spare money, and stocks are now so low that 5 per. cent is to be had, and the security the best that can be obtained. If you have any cash to spare to put out at interest I recommend you to purchase Three per cent. Consols with it immediately, before a peace takes place. You cannot in my humble opinion have a more favourable opportunity of placing out your money. If you have any money lent and can receive it back, I certainly should recommend your putting it into the Bank, where the interest allow'd now is equal to what you can have elsewhere, and the principal more secure, and the payment of both

more punctual. If you should have any sum above £30 to spare, and this recommendation strikes you as advisable to be adopted, I will very freely lend you the assistance necessary in making the arrangement of it for you. I have a little of my own in the bank and expect to add more to it, and henceforward I propose every shilling of such cash to be deposited there, as I have not occasion for otherwise than putting out at interest. There is a risk in lending money to private hands which is not the case in putting it into the Bank, where the interest is punctually paid every half-year and the principal to be had at any time according to the price of the Stock purchased.

I long to see you and my sister Nan, who I should be glad to have a long conversation with about what past at Mellfell when we both lived there, and what has occurred with each of us since, but I cannot come down at present and do not know when I shall be able.

I remain, Dear Brother and Sister,

Your sincere friend and

affectionate humble servant

THOMAS RUMNEY.

Pray remember me affectionately to my sister Elizabeth when you see her.

London, 23rd July, 1796.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

DEAR SIR,

From the tenour of your letter, I am persuaded you sat down to write to me, not only in bad health, but in a bad humour. It so happens that I have preserved a copy of my last letter to you; and on looking it over with an attentive as well as an impartial eye, I can't see the cause for your stigmatizing me so hastily.

The commercial idea that struck me respecting what you have termed the 5% business, was mentioned in an easy, candid, familiar, and affectionate manner, and from the preceding and subsequent remarks attached, must evidently prove that not a spark of malignant matter gave rise to it; and if further evidence be wanting to free me from an impeachment of this nature, I must refer the Jury, to my not only general, but particular conduct towards you on all occasions. I never had it in my power to serve you to warrant my making a boast of it, but have always endeavoured to befriend you without dissimulation or duplicity.

No doubt ever possessed me of your motives being what they ought on a recent matter, which I am glad to find is likely to subside peaceably, and I am now very sorry for having given you so much trouble in plaguing you with letters respecting it and putting you to the expense of postage—

and as this is also a superfluous one, to gratify myself, you must give me leave to pay the postage of it. I am not so full of money, as to say 5*d.* is not an object, but where it is owing, I should be sorry to want a spirit to pay it. I am truly concerned to hear that you are indisposed, and hope you're better ere this, and that you will be perfectly well at the time you may find it necessary to set off to Bristol with the view of engaging the curacy. I wish you a pleasant journey and success.

Miss H., I fancy, could not help being much affected at perusing the copy of the bold pointed letter, which you had from your uncle and which I think was too strong to be made known to her. Time with a proper degree of patience and fortitude soon reconciles and reinstates the most extraordinary eruptions. In London I daily see or hear of excesses taking place, which seem too much for human nature to endure, but still come round again tho' unaccountably. Moderation in all human affairs is a necessary guide, and I always, on reflecting, see her worth to be inestimable. I have not heard of anything new from any of my friends since my last to you, except Jimmy Richardson, who is still in the Downs, and I have the pleasure to say is in good spirits. Mr. Godschall Johnson is just returned from Buxton, where he has been much benefited by bathing. Perhaps you will take a dip or two at Bristol, which may do you good. If I had money to spend I would accompany you, but I shall be kept poor

till about Christmas next. On the 31st of October next I intend to make a grand effort to satisfy the appetite of every individual creditor I have, and after that must lay by something to be deposited in the Bank of England. My cash account is not in a state to be inspected by my aunt, nor even my uncle, but I have improved it much within the last two years of my economical pursuit. The cost of my country lodging is a grievous pull back upon my finances, and I am sorry to say it is become an unavoidable expense, and must be continued for the summer months at least. I pay 4s. per week, which is about £10 10s. *od.* per annum, and it incurs an extra wear and tear of cloaths of say, 4 gns. per do.

At present I do not know whether the Parson or the Clerk has the better opportunity of saving money. The former is occasionally spared the expense of a dinner, but the latter never is. I calculate that according to the present price of bread and provisions here that my cost in board, lodgings, and washing, hairdressing, and cloathing, is not less than 80 guineas a year, notwithstanding I do not drink one glass of wine or once put on a cocked hat. Mr. Carleton is the only companion I have of either male or female now, and you know he in luxury spends nothing.

With best wishes for your better health and welfare

I remain, Your affectionate brother,

THOMAS RUMNEY.

Old South Sea House, 2nd Aug. 1796.

GODSLL. JOHNSON, ESQ.

SIR,

I am very sorry to hear that your son has met with such a bad accident, but hope he is as well as the disaster will admit of. Not having heard from Mr. Jones on Saturday, I went to Edmonton to see him the next day, and found him confined to his bed with the rheumatism, which it seems prevented his writing to you himself on Saturday, and that his apothecary did it for him. He seemed in tolerable spirits but told me he could neither move his legs nor arms. His brother, Mr. John Jones, says his disorder is epidemical, but not attended with any alarming symptoms. Master Edward Jones is come up from Highworth and called at the South Sea House this morning. There have been no arrivals from the Leeward Islands, nor anything material occurred at your Co. ho. since you were in the City. At foot is the price of the Stocks this day, and Mr. Bury says they look very heavy.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient and humble servt.

THOMAS RUMNEY.

London, 6th Aug., 1796.

MR. ANTHONY RUMNEY.

DEAR BROTHER,

I promised you I would write to you in my last, dated about five weeks since, if anything

material occurred respecting the affair I mentioned respecting Matrimony, which I'm now sorry to inform you is entirely dropp'd for the present, and whether it will ever be revived again or not I cannot tell you. Mr. Clark has flatly refused to advance any more money on Bill's account at present, and tells me he has already cost him £1500. Bill thinks Mrs. Clark has persuaded Mr. Clark on this occasion not to come forward on his behalf, and if he really has had such an amazing sum, what aunt would not under such circumstances as Mrs. C. say that 'tis time to assist him with a sparing hand only. I have modestly suggested to Bill, the appearance Mr. Clark's very partial and benevolent conduct to him must have in the eyes of our relations, and the benefit which might be expected to arise from the expenditure of so much money, and behold! the high-tempered young gentleman seems nearly quite affronted with me. I am, for certain reasons which I could give you, determined not to quarrel with him, but my general conduct to him in future shall be something cooler than heretofore. He seems to be born a monster in the family and we can have no command over him. I had a letter from Mr. Clark the other day only, which tells me that he has had of him £20 10s. *od.* this last summer, and he has owed me £8 1s. *od.* above 12 months, and how much longer I'm to wait for it I know not. Should our uncle die, but thank God it is not likely at present to happen, we should all be ruined

by him. My wish to have got him married was to have got him sold out of the family. I hope he paid you for the mare, but I suppose he still owes George Trimble a large sum of money, and I think I was told that you were his security. Who pays the interest, pray? I wrote to my brother and Mr. Trimble on the 20th July. I directed my letter to the Horse and Jockey Inn, Carlisle, and amongst other things told George that if he had any money to put out to interest, that I recommended his putting it into the Bank of England, where he might now have 5% interest and a better security than in any private hands. This scheme I also recommend to all my friends, and they that can adopt it certainly are to blame not to do it, stocks are so low now and the great advantage that would be derived if a peace should happen soon which is still the opinion of many people. Have you anything to spare or any of your friends? I give you leave to appoint me the Attorney to transact the business for yourself or friends. I now look upon myself as a respectable and responsible character. What little money I can save out of my salary I mean to put into the Bank, which cannot be put into a better place. Mr. Clark writes in good spirits and says he is really fatter now than ever he was in his life. His birthday is on the 15th of this month, and is to be kept according to custom. He says he shall then be 62 and surprises me by saying that he thinks our mother is in her 70th year, pray is it

true? I told him of the business respecting Mr. Robinson, which seems to strike his attention in that particular manner that I thought it would and he wants much to know who this heir-at-law is, and puts the following question to me, which I will thank you to get answer'd for me in your next :—"Do you mean the man who went off from Richmond Races to Gretna Green with William's daughter, or his son by that marriage, and what is his character?" I hope the rheumatism has entirely left you and that you are perfectly well again. I hope my mother is also very well. I have asked my uncle, in a joke, if I may come down to see her next year. I sent Mrs. Clark her annual box of sugar this day by waggon, and put in a few Yorkshire cakes which my country landlady has made me for the purpose, and I expect to hear that they will be much approved of on the birthday. Mr. Clark says they had the most extraordinary storm of thunder and rain on the 13th July ever remembered by any person living, and says the Vicarage House was entirely flooded and the garden like a little sea, and that they were hardly in order to see a friend for a fortnight afterwards. The last account I had from my brother William mentioned his intention of going to Bristol to endeavour to procure a curacy, and I hope he succeeded. I hope your hay and corn harvest is in a flourishing state. Pray how is Billy Hodgson? My uncle has enquired of me the names of his late brother Thomas's children. He,

however, recollects all but the two youngest girls, which I have told him are Barbara and Ann, and believe I am right: from this enquiry I suppose he means to remember them in his will, which will prove his strict impartiality to his relations I dare say whenever it is published. Do favour me with a letter as soon as you have time, and tell me how you are, my mother and sisters and any other friends. Have you got the whole of your Landed Property into your own hands? How do your farming concerns go on now—any more fat swines? How many head of sheep, horses and horned cattle have you? Mr. Carleton and I walk in the country much and talk about farming, but he will not allow me to be acquainted with the nature of it, or know much about it. I tell him I expect to be a farmer yet in the course of my lifetime, and must employ you by and by to purchase me a small estate in Cumberland, and shall put myself under your care for instructions about farming. This business, tho' not in sight at present may possibly come to pass. Mr. Jones is laid up with the rheumatic fever at present, and I have had all the business of the Counting House to do for a whole fortnight, which, however, has not amounted to much more than counting my fingers. Had I more to do I should not, you will say, write such long letters and so often.

I remain your sincere well wisher,

THOMAS RUMNEY.

London, 5th August, 1796.

REV. EDWARD CLARK.

DEAR UNCLE,

I have now to thank you for having taken the pains to write me so long a letter by Mrs. Gale. It was put in my hands by Mr. Gale on Tuesday morning when I had the pleasure to see the young Antigonian who seems in high spirits, but not much the fatter for Wiltshire bacon. I fancy he will not be able to go to the school provided for him for several weeks to come on account of the holidays, which makes his coming up at this time a little unlucky. I am sorry to inform you that Mr. Chas. Jones has been much indisposed for a whole fortnight, and confined indoors at his brother's at Edmonton. A violent cold and sore throat was the beginning of his illness, which is got off, but is succeeded by rheumatic fever which still confines him to his bed, but from his apothecary's account is not attended with any symptoms of danger. Not having heard from him on or before Saturday last in a satisfactory manner, I went the next day to see him, and found him, poor fellow, flat upon his back, unable to move either his legs or arms, but in good spirits, however, and quite heart whole. I have the pleasure to hear this morning that his doctor reports him to be getting better, but I fancy we cannot expect to see him at the city for

a week or ten days to come. I certainly shall, as I have assured him, endeavour to make his absence attended with as little inconvenience as possible to Mr. Johnson. He really ought (and his brother Richard knows it) to adopt a more regular and consistent plan with regard to board and lodging, in which I conceive he has not been at all comfortable for some time past. Bachelors, who can afford it, should procure a nurse at a proper time of life for adopting this comfortable plan. No class of men, I think, are more awkwardly situated than poor clerks, who are generally destitute when superannuated, and neither can look back or forward with the hope of being comforted. Our employers will not allow us more salary than we are obliged to spend in their service, and if we have a spirit to ask for more get told that there are others will be glad to come into our berth if we are dissatisfied. There are a few not quite so unfortunate, but to be a mere underling in office all one's days is a very dreary, and, I think an unnatural pursuit. In speaking of myself and many of my brother quill drivers I do not wish to have it understood that my spirits are like the *Omnium*, under par. Neither do I quite despair of being able to take care in time to prevent the want of comfort from pecuniary assistance, when I am unable to procure it otherwise than by daily labour. The North of England is become quite a manufactory for Bankers' and Merchants' clerks, and the brawny, awkward, Scotch boys come

gaping for employment and undertake to do as much as two people's work at half price which does much harm to the trade, and if the price of provisions continues to increase and the cook shops advance in their charge for a dinner a regulation or revolution must take place. The other day I undertook, partly for amusement as well as my own satisfaction, to calculate impartially what the amount of a Compt. House bachelor's expenses might amount to in the year 1796, and was astonished, and not a little mortified, to see the sum of 100 guineas stare me in the face, and were I not only a peeping but a sneaking Tom I could not drop a single shilling at the year's end within the strong walls in my neighbourhood. The S.S.H. scheme would have proved a bubble, had I not submitted in time to set my dinner table aside and turn away my servant, but that sort of beginning was prudent, altho' the continuance of it was not. I have now nearly all the credit and use of keeping a servant without being saddled with the expense of one, which scheme would readily strike you, I fancy, to be similar to the one I have adopted at Hampstead, viz. that I must be a man of weight in the eye of the world, altho' my purse is light. However, I am so well satisfied with my conduct that I am never afraid of being followed home for a testimony of it. Messrs. Yeates & Co. recommend the port to be sent to you in bottles, and will certainly return the money for the bottles on receiving them back. Lisbon, they say, keeps

better in casks which ought to have a bell metal cock to them. There is no difference in price between the port and Lisbon which is 37/- per doz. or 11/- per gallon. I expect to be able to send my aunt's box of sugar by the waggon to-morrow. I am the more eager to lose no time in sending it from an idea that it may not get to hand so opportunely if delayed much longer. Our Fleet is not arrived, but I have arranged this little matter with our sugar cooper. My country landlady is, I understand, an excellent hand at making Yorkshire cakes, and she has promised to make me a few to put into the sugar box for Mrs. Clark to treat her friends with on the 15th inst. I fancy there will be two sorts, for tea and lunch, the plain sort for tea must be carefully toasted in a cheese toaster or Dutch oven, to be made hot gradually, and cut in two with a sharp knife and well buttered. The lunch cakes, on getting stale, should be warmed a little, which will take off the staleness entirely. Both sorts will keep good some time I'm told. I was on Hampstead Heath, taking my evening walk, and observed the lightning to the westward to be dreadful at the time you mention, but we scarce heard the thunder and had but a few drops of rain. The account you give of it is truly astonishing and I think 'twas lucky the Vicarage House stood upon high ground. I am sorry it happens not to be in my power to give you the information you ask for respecting Mr. Robinson's affairs. I am totally unacquainted with the Gretna

Green business. My mother knows the pedigree of that family pretty well I believe, but her son Thomas can hardly trace out who are his own first cousins. It happens, however, that he can mention the names of those he is called upon to give in—Samuel and Thomas are the two sons, and Sarah, Barbara and Ann are the three daughters that my uncle Thomas Clark left behind him. You say Sarah Richardson which ought to be Sarah Hodgson, I fancy. I have not heard how her husband is lately. You surprise me in saying my mamma is in her 70th year, and which makes me feel the more ashamed for not having seen her for 13 years last past. Will you give me leave to go to see her next year if I'm a good boy, and circumstances admit of its being consistent? But if I should find myself seriously disposed to go, I shall apply to my friend Mrs. Clark, who, I fancy, will readily grant me the indulgence, and I think you will not like to quarrel with your nurse.

It appears you have the promise of the grant of a new lease, which I presume is to be dated on the 15th Aug., 1796, and I beg leave to congratulate you on so very happy a prospect. I hope it will be of a desirable length and attended with much advantage and comfort. Your growing fat is perhaps the cause of exercise being fatiguing. It appears that you are 30 years older than I am, but, as my mother would observe, who knows that I'm 30 years behind you.

"As to Miss F. M. and Miss Holyoak
 Why have they admitted of its being all a joke?
 But what can be said or what can be done,
 If the Parson and Clerk say they meant nothing but fun?
 I hope, however, they'll make a reconcilable confession
 Which surely ought to be expected from the profession
 I'm sorry to hear of such imprudent wooings;
 I hope to steer clear myself of all such doings."

Sell Omnium now! No, most assuredly not.
 The Bank is now considerably enlarged, and we
 want, for a variety of reasons, money to put into
 it, and a change of the most important circum-
 stances must take place before it will be pleasant
 to see it come out again. Pray give my aunt a
 kiss extra for me on the Birth Day, and I will do
 as much for you, when the opportunity serves.
 With my best wishes for your enjoyment of all
 earthly blessings, as well as for your experiencing
 many happy returns of your Birth Day.

I remain, dear Uncle and Aunt

Your much obliged and odedt.

humble servt.

THOMAS RUMNEY.

Sent with the box and waggon.

London, 20th August, 1796.

MR. SAM'L. CLARK,
 Brewer, Penrith.

DEAR COUSIN,

Reflection every now and then furnishes
 me with ideas respecting my native home and my

friends and relations at Penrith, whom I hear very little of, and where, unfortunately, I have no person to correspond with to gratify my curiosity with whom I am sufficiently acquainted or that have experience for that purpose; it has struck me latterly that you yourself, if so inclined, must I presume, from your professional capacity, be fully equal to supplying me with all I require on this head, and if you will take the trouble to indulge me with a letter of information every now and then as you may see occasion I should be much obliged to you. All that I wish for is chiefly the general state and proceedings of your own family (secrets excepted), how the brewery concern goes on, any material events that transpire, that are either interesting or entertaining at Penrith, or elsewhere in the North. Your sister before she got married used to favour me with a letter frequently, and which was very acceptable, but I have never heard from her since I was informed that her husband was seriously indisposed. I hope, however, he is perfectly recovered. Pray have they any children? What is your brother Thomas's profession or employ? Where are your two youngest sisters, whom you used to call Nanny and Wanny, and what doing? Do you give my compliments to Bab whom I recollect to have nursed a little? Where does Mrs. James Clark live now and what part of her family is with her and where are the remainder, particularly her sons, John and Candidus, the latter I was acquainted with, but suppose him

to be lost at sea from not having heard any account of him for a long time. Is Edward Sharp, who married your unfortunate sister, living, and is the child also? What family has Mr. Birkbeck, and where does he live now? Where does your own house stand, and what servant and servants do you keep, and who lives with you, and have you any prospect of getting prudently married soon? Do you ever visit my brother Anthony at Mellfell, and pay your respects to your Landed Property in that quarter? Have you any races at Penrith now, and are not the farmers as well as the Brewers in and near Penrith getting rich? Are you upon a familiar and friendly footing (I mean as much so as in your parents' time) with all your relations, particularly Miss Kitty and Mary Carleton? I am sorry to find my much respected friend Kitty is far from well and I heartily wish her better. Do pray give two or three of my old female quondam acquaintances each a kiss for me, viz. Kitty and Mary aforesaid and your sister Sarah—and Barbara and Ann must not be forgotten. I have been a shameful [*sic*] while absent from my mamma and all my friends and relations in the North. 'Tis now little short of 13 long years since I walked off, and since which I have heard, felt, and understood a good deal respecting the concerns which young men are subject to that set out in life upon the awkward and embarrassed footing which I did. But from an unremitted attention to rub through all difficulties and promote myself by every prudent

means, I have now much pleasure in being able to say to my friends at home, that I not only find myself at this day pretty comfortable in pecuniary circumstances, but also in a more creditable employ than either they or myself could have even sanguinely expected at my first setting out. I am sorry to say, however, that my health within the three last years has been much impaired from my employment being in a close Compting House, and very sedentary, but I have for the last six months had recourse to a lodging in the country, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant, from which I have been benefited, and am pretty well at present. Your uncle, Mr. John Carleton, lives with me at my chambers in the City, and we have been inseparable companions ever since he came under my roof. This being Saturday, we are going at 3 o'clock to my country house at Hampstead, and shall stop till Monday morning according to custom. If you should meet with my brother Anthony soon, do tell him from me that he's a shabby, lazy fellow for not writing to the cockney without being so often applied to, but perhaps you'll have this blunt reply—"Tom is always writing insignificant stuff, and has nothing else to do, and supposes it to be the case with everybody he writes to"—with best respects to all enquiring friends,

I remain your affectionate cousin,

THOMAS RUMNEY.

Old South-Sea House,
London.

London, 27th August, 1796.

REV. WILLIAM RUMNEY,

DEAR SIR,

From the little knowledge I ever had, or any recent information which has come to hand, respecting the plot you are engaged in, I cannot but conceive myself quite incapable of giving either advice or opinion worth notice. Old Square Toes and his nephew Bill have had a College Education, and being North Countrymen also, their relation Tom in London, whose empty head and purse deprive him of a vote and of being heard with attention, sits down quietly and leaves the Gentlemen of the Black Robe to draw their own conclusions upon their own business, and put the finishing stroke to it as their wisdom and prudence may direct. I am not acquainted with the public or private character of F. Holyoak Esq., but his letter to you is couched in terms of much civility. Mr. Clark, knowing I have no business to interfere, gives me no opportunity to speak to him upon the subject, and if I was to add anything more to what I have said, he might think me impudent and troublesome, and I have no propensity to plague any friend, relation or person living. And I shall in future endeavour to guard against asking questions, which are likely to be deemed at all busy or impertinent. I feel stronger inclined than I ever did to look to myself and my own concerns, for I have no person in my eye

that's likely to do it for me. Age and experience may yet be profitable to me. Such is my general temper and disposition that I have no prospect of enjoying real comfort so long as I am not in some degree independent with respect to pecuniary concerns and borrow'd friendships. I heartily wish you may not be opposed by Mr. Martin's nephew in attempting to succeed to the living of Overbury. I understood from you some time since that Mr. M.'s nephew had taken possession of the living, and meant to officiate in doing the duty himself, but I presume he is not the gentleman you report to be dead. I cannot answer your question respecting the inflexible squire of Mellfell. I am not able to draw one word from him in any reasonable time in answer to my letters whatever may be the enquiries they contain, and if, which is the case sometimes, a letter contains different matters I plainly ask him to reply to, he is rude or ignorant to turn a deaf ear to the whole, or perhaps gives me an inexplicit account of one or two only. I am endeavouring to establish a scribbling correspondent at Penrith, viz. Saml. Clark, and did write to him a few days ago for a specimen, but am afraid he has neither a head nor disposition to give me the required gratification. I have put to him about twenty plain questions to enable him to begin without difficulty or diffidence, and if he can't get through such a simple matter with some degree of credit to himself I shall, in considering the opportunity

he has had of being a decent scholar and character in life, call him a stupid dunce or some such name or names as you and I have been call'd in our youth at that stupid school, conducted under the care of either stupid or inexperienced schoolmasters at Newchurch.* As to my brother A. I have, in order to make his letters somewhat longer and cheaper, adopted a new plan, *i.e.* in putting down a list of questions with a particular request that they may be answered, and I have now a list by me which I propose sending free of postage the first opportunity, and this list I mean to have returned on his filling up the blanks. I have enquired what are the alterations he has made about Mellfell since I left it, and who lives in each house throughout the whole Parish of Watermillock. What! not call upon you for a repayment yet? Pray, Rev. Sir, have you not forgot how many months it is since I lent you the money I could not very well spare? Your clipping £8 1s. *od.* out of the list of small debts owing to me, and which I expected to pocket on or before the 31st October next deranges my plan a little, and strengthens the resolution I had formed some time since of not lending a shilling more to any person. I am too much ashamed to acknowledge what I have suffered in lending my money and being so credulous.

* An alternative name of Watermillock, whose parish church originally stood on the lake side on the site of the house called Oldchurch.

I do not wish to distress you, but I do wish you to tell me when you think you can pay me. I hope you have settled with your vicar and also with Mr. Booker. I have taxed both my Back and Belly as much as I prudently can to effect a happy seat in viewing my cash affairs, and I am afraid I must continue it till I shall wear the appearance of being quite old-fashioned and bachelor-like indeed. I hope soon to hear of your better success in all your affecting concerns, and remain your sincere well wisher and humble servant.

THOMAS RUMNEY.

London, 31st August, 1796.

REV. EDWARD CLARK.

DEAR UNCLE,

The West Indian Trader, Highworth built, I am sorry to say is not yet so far reinstated as to be able to return to her own moorings. She has now been in dry dock nearly six weeks, and I understand has undergone a thorough repair. After she is launched I should think a little seasoning on the Southern Coasts would be of essential service before she undertakes the ensuing winter's voyage, but whether a scheme of this kind will take place or not, I do not at present know, but hope the needful will be complied with. I received your favour of the 20th on the 23rd inst. p. penny post. Your having mentioned Mr. F. Marsh's residence so particularly inclines me to give him a call, which

I will do some afternoon on my way home: an acquaintance both from and of Highworth would certainly be a very pleasant acquisition, but such is my knowledge and the experience I have had of young men generally as makes me quite shy and unwilling to form an acquaintance with any one hastily. Bacchus and Venus must not be forgot in the company of most young sparks, and I have no money to spare to join Chorus with them. I wish, however, to be supposed to be a sociable being, but must conform to the limits of my circumstances.

Behold the state of Omnium and 3 per cent. Consols this day! the former at 15% disct. the latter at £55—add to this the very bad accounts last received from the Leeward Islands respecting the next crop. Should we have nothing better turn up either in our public or private concerns in the course of a few weeks or months, it is unknown to me what will be the consequence of it, but I am very sensible many of our bold speculating citizens must look very little and very simple. 8 or 10 thousands to pay instead of a few thousands to receive is an awkward business. Let us, however, encourage hope and not despond. Mrs. Kirk was afraid we should hear a bad account of the cakes, as both the weather and their apartment was very close. I have now the pleasure to say she has taken me under her wing again, which seems pleasant to us both. I thank you for your kind intentions of sending me some prog. However hungry you may suppose me to be, I have no wish

to partake of more than in reason ought to satisfy me; my appetite, like that of two or three of my relations upon a similar footing might, if imprudently indulged, increase imperceptibly 'till there might be no bounds to its cravings, but I will stick to my old habit of moderation which is the only guide to steer one clear of insupportable misfortunes, while the blessing of health remains. I am not, however, so ill-natured or purse-proud, as to refuse altogether the free-will meat offering from my most valuable friends. One of your thin cheeses is all I wish to receive, except my aunt could spare me a very small pot of honey to be given to Mrs. Kirk, in order I might stand somewhat square with her on the score of extreme civility. I find it impossible to discharge this sort of debt with money. The compliment must therefore be paid—in having a trifle dear-bought and far-fetched which verifys the proverbial remark—of its being good for ladies. Notwithstanding this awkward predicament in which I stand with my indefatigable Nanny, I would not have mentioned the article of honey, had I not observed in the newspaper the other day—that it was plentiful this year, but should it not be the case at the vicarage, I beg I may neither rob the poor industrious bees, nor their industrious keeper.

The last letter I had from my brother Bill mentioned his vicar having suddenly died and that he entertained some thoughts of again offering himself a candidate for the living of Overbury. It

appears he is a little in the dumps respecting the matrimonial affair, upon which subject I have left off talking to him sometime since, from his not seeming disposed to hold any conversation with me.

I certainly should be exceedingly glad to see him settled in such a manner as would entirely free all his friends, but particularly his relations from all trouble and unpleasant anxiety concerning him: but how it is to be effected is beyond my comprehension, and I must leave it to those who can command his attention at least. I have call'd at Mr. Rutter's and have taken up the balance due to you from him at this time, being £10 19s. 1*d.* which is 14/2 less than the sum you mentioned. The odd 2*d.* is for the receipt taken for the payment made at Christ's Hospital, and the 14/- for the renewal of your Insurance. When I get the Wine Merchant's Bill, I will state the account between you and me, and I shall not be surprised if I find the balance in my own favour.

I beg leave to request the favour of you to let Mr. Richard Jones be informed, with my compliments, that I received his note enclosing two letters, sent by young Warren the 22nd inst. and forwarded the letters immediately.

	£	s.	d.
The Amount of the Wine Bill which is inclosed is	...	12	6 3
A Bill for Newspapers sent to Bath 2 <i>d.</i>	...	...	4 0
Kearsley's T.T. 8 <i>d.</i> , Curate Act 6 <i>d.</i>	...	...	2 2
Co. Ct. Pamphl. 1 <i>s.</i>	...	...	...
		12	12 5
Deduct Cash recd. of Mr. Rutter	...	10	19 1
Due to Thos. Rumney	...	£1	13 4

The bell metal cock, I observe, is charged 3/- which appears too much for modest Tom to put on a smile of insinuation about, and proud spirits do not Beg with a good grain in certain instances. I shall pay Yeates and Brown the cash when I take this to be put into the hamper, and the 3*d*. of course they'll strike off. Hoping that you will receive the wine safe and derive much comfort from it, and that this will find you and my good friend Mrs. Clark quite well and hearty.

I remain

Your truly dutiful and

affectionate nephew

THOMAS RUMNEY.

CHAPTER V

A LULL

London, 10th September, 1796.

MR. A. RUMNEY.

DEAR BROTHER,

I felt quite alarmed on receiving your letter dated the 5th of this month. I really hope and trust you are much mended of your severe lameness, which it seems has been exceedingly tormenting to you. You must pardon the harsh compt. I had paid you, in consequence of my not having heard from you so soon as I had expected. I hope you are in want of no attendance that your disorder or helpless condition requires, and that you adopt every means you possibly can to bring yourself round again. The nature of your case must require time and you ought to have patience to allow it, in order to get perfectly well. A few weeks given away now may be the saving of years to you hereafter. You do not mention by what means you apprehend you have come by this accident, and I think it very extraordinary that you were not laid up with it sooner. I hope from your having changed your doctor you will find a

material change in your complaint for the better. I told you in my last letter dated the 6th August that Mr. Jones was laid up, and I have now to say that he is not yet so much recovered as to be able to attend business. It is upwards of 7 weeks since he was at the Compting House. I am sorry at the news of the death of poor William Taylor, whom I suggested to you I thought could not long survive. I presume 'tis his brother that you are now under the care of. I am glad you enjoy a good appetite which is a great blessing in your state of confinement. Your having lost both flesh and strength is not to be wondered at this season of the year. Mr. Jones is reduced to a mere skeleton, but, like you, has a tolerable relish for his victuals, and is likely to get perfectly well again. Let me beg of you to let me know how you are as soon as you can endure the trouble of writing. I shall be very anxious to know how you go on. As you are so much reduced, perhaps you and I are somewhat more like brothers than we were. I am still scraggy and appear about 10 years older than I am. I walk about 12 miles every day, Sundays excepted. Had I not adopted this plan of lodging in the country, I fancy letter writing would have been out of my power by this time, and that I should have either been in my grave or taking quick steps towards it. I am obliged to you for your promised attention to my last letter. I have not heard very lately from our young Nobleman, but understand he is likely to remain at Overbury

some time longer. He appears to me still to entertain hopes that his uncle will do something for him in the matrimonial business. I am not aware how it will finally end. In his last, he enquired how you were. I can now give him the melancholy information. Old Square Toes has applied to me to send him some wine, and agreeable to his request I sent him last week as much as came to £12.

I have prepared a long list of questions to be answered by you respecting the situation of the inhabitants in Newchurch, and I will take the liberty of sending it to you when I meet with any person going down to Penrith. When you have wrote in the different answers I should be glad to have it returned. I wrote to cousin Saml. Clark about 3 weeks ago to give me some account of my friends and how matters were going on at Penrith, but I fancy the young gentleman is either too proud or too diffident to comply with my civil request. Pray, what friends call to see you on your Sick Bed, and who manages your concerns in husbandry? Wishing you quite well and soon,

I remain,

Your affectionate Brother

THOMAS RUMNEY.

Please remember me to my mother and write as soon as you're able.

London, 12th September, 1796.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

DEAR BROTHER,

I write to you now in consequence of a few lines I received from our brother Anthony last Friday, dated the 5th inst. Poor fellow! he informs me of having been exceedingly tormented with pain for the last 3 weeks, and unable to compose himself to sleep either by night or day, and tells me his pain was such when he wrote to me that he was under the necessity of bracing himself by the side of his bed upon his knees to write. He told me some time ago that he was afflicted with the Rheumatism, but it now appears that 'twas not that disorder but a bone in his hip out of its place and which he has applied to a Mr. Taylor to put to rights, who tells him it will be sometime before he will be able to go abroad again. He, A., says also that he is reduced to a mere skeleton, but enjoys his victuals and I think is in tolerable spirits, so that I trust the worst is past. As your last contained an enquiry after him and his contains one after you, I have sent him a letter of condolence and embrace this opportunity of giving you the required information. Mr. Wm. Taylor is dead, brother, I fancy, to Mr. Taylor who attends our Brother A. He went down from hence very ill a little while back, and only survived one week after getting to his native home. He was a

cheerful, good-natured man, and in some degree I regret his being call'd away so soon. Mr. Jones is still confined to his Bed Chamber. He is getting better, but not very fast. Johnson continues in pretty good humour, but I am afraid the length of his face will increase ere long, and what will be the consequence of it, I'm at a loss to form an idea. I hope something fresh and favourable has transpired with you since my last of the 27th ult., and that you are able to see your way in your critical concerns in a more clear and comprehensive manner than heretofore. I should be glad to hear of your having succeeded to the Living. If the Oak Stick could have been converted into a Walking Stick in the business, it might have turned to a good account.

Have you met any fat geese, pigs etc. ready to turn into cash for the thin, starving cockney yet? He's counting the days up to the 31st of next month in the way he and Brother Bill used to do at Mary Porter's School, when near Christmas holidays. Stocks too, are now so very low that if a few odd pounds could possibly be scraped together, it would be very advisable to have them locked up in the Bank. The Rev. Mr. Polhill of Goudhurst cannot be a gentleman, if he has it in his power to pay his son Richard's debts. You know something of his character: I do not. I shall suspect even the black cloth in future. My barber, a good honest, civil, fellow begged of me to lend him a guinea for only a fortnight, the other day, but my

wounds on that score were not sufficiently healed up to admit of my obliging him. If money itself is not the devil, it makes one devilish. With my best wishes for your health and prosperity

I remain

Your affect. Tom of

BONNY LAAL * MELLFELL.

London, 20th Oct., 1796.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

DEAR SIR,

I have received your long letter of the 15th inst. and have noticed the contents with much attention, and not a small degree of concern. We have, my dear fellow, every one of us difficulties and daily mortifications to encounter and reconcile, but something is to be said in check of our complaints as to the real cause which they spring from, and also how they ought to be treated after being created; with regard to my ownself I have to say it has been a continued and invariable maxim with me to step no further from home, than I was quite confident of making my retreat, without calling to strangers or untried friends for assistance. We should be our own friend as much as possible, and endeavour to command a favour on one hand, when

* Laal = little. There are two hills, called Mellfell, Great and Little, or otherwise West and East. Both are very prominent on the S. of the C. K. and P. Railway between Penruddock and Troutbeck stations. Little Mellfell is exactly the shape of a mason's mallet and is quite bare: Great Mellfell is wooded.

soliciting with the other. Your letter contains a most distressing account of the difficulties, disappointments, provocations etc. with which you seem to have been surrounded latterly, but in summing up the amount of the whole I am not without the hope as well as the belief that your broad shoulders are fully equal to support the weight of the gross amount. It is several weeks ago since I had a letter from my Brother A. which informed me that you had, as you now observe, applied to him to remit me £5 forthwith. Upon that point he observed to me that he could not spare it me, and that all he could do for you in it was to try my further indulgence to you. I wrote to him immediately to prevent any delay that I could avoid in his writing to you, and told him for answer, that I could not, for shame, think of urging him to comply with your solicitations under such conditions, and that as it amounted to a proof of your being extremely poor, I was disposed to wait a few months longer or until you could let me have it without suffering real inconvenience. This said to him is my information to you now upon the subject. If Anthony should mention the distant period, Lady Day next for the payment, I trust as well as hope, that I may rest assured of receiving it then. Your last say about it was I may look for a good account of it. I wish it may be in your power to furnish it. Richardson within these few weeks has drawn out of my hands upwards of £10 which is very unlucky, and I have been obliged to borrow

20 guineas. I wish you better success in collecting your Credits. I have no wish to investigate your scheme of going out of England at present, and it must present itself in a very different view to my ideas before I can so far reconcile it, as to think of recommending your serious attention to it. I am sorry to see you put down in your own handwriting that you conceive your merits are of no avail to you in a certain point of view, to this very affecting observation I know much is attached by you. But I recommend your balancing the account, and if there does appear a difference in your favour which you are not likely to recover from those that incurred it, have the generosity to forgive the whole debt, and open a fresh account if you can still find yourself interested and can think favourably of the connection. I do not comprehend all that you say respecting Mr. Clark's conduct in recent occurrences quite clearly, neither do I wish to plague you for an explanation. I had a letter from Mr. Clark yesterday, at the foot of which stands the following observations, viz.—“I hope Brother Bill will soon have a Minor Canon's place and living; as to matrimony he seems quite indifferent.” This remark encourages me to fancy that some favourable symptom has transpired since the date of your letter, and if it is so, I should be exceedingly glad to be informed of it, as your success in improving your finances would be a pleasant relief in the ideas I have of your situation and circumstances. I am glad to hear so favourable an

account of Miss H. Poor Jones is still an invalid and not fit for business, and has thoughts of going home to his mammy. Should it be the case, I shall have a *right* to expect an advance of salary. Johnson is truly an awful governor to live under, but at any rate I think it worth while, and I am disposed to embrace the opportunity if it should occur.

I remain

With every affectionate wish to you

Your sincere friend

THOMAS RUMNEY.

Brother Anthony seemed to be getting better in his last account.

I would have ordered you a hat of Lewthwaite had I been upon pleasant terms with him. As I have not found him honourable or scarce civil latterly, I am no longer a customer to him, but if you think it worth while and can furnish me with dimensions, I will order you one elsewhere, but the conveyance is the most awkward part of the business.

London, 22nd October, 1796.

REV. MR. CLARK.

MY DEAR SIR,

I now beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your two last favours of the 11th ult. and 19th inst., and also your handsome present of a supply for the old Garrison. The Box arrived at

the Old South-Sea House by 8 o'clock this morning just as I was contriving the best mode of sending for it. I have the pleasure to say that all the articles you gave an account of are come to hand quite safe and in excellent order. The goose with a doz. of the largest apples was despatched to Mr. Rutter's immediately; I have given my good-natured and industrious housekeeper the remainder of the apples of which she is to make a pie, and I am to partake of it to-morrow. Nanny Kirk shall have her pretty pot of honey the first opportunity. I have been obliged to withdraw myself from her in consequence of my hurry in business in the city, but I cannot forget her civilities.

The socks are particularly acceptable. I have got a pair of them on to-day and find them comfortable. My aunt has much obliged me in this additional instance of her kindness to me. My old stock was nearly quite worn out. Your handing over four guineas seems a large sum and generous of you, but I am not able at present to settle the little matters concerning it. I have, however, paid Mr. Ewer $13\frac{3}{4}$ for the ham which I observe weighed 15 lbs. at $10\frac{1}{2}d$. I have also called at Yeates & Co.'s, but the cask and hamper are not yet delivered to them, but they will have them this evening. I have made enquiry into the charge of 16/9—the cask is 5/-, bottles 10/- and hamper 1/9. I will call on Mr. Morris to know if Puss got safe to her journey's end.

As to the apparent change in office at the South-

Sea House, modesty prevents my saying much or speaking at all loud about it at present. Mr. Jones seems incapable of doing Compting House business at present with either comfort or satisfaction to himself, altho' he is abroad again. I fancy he is strongly inclined to pay a long visit at Highworth. I discover no unfavourable symptoms in Mr. Johnson towards your nephew Tom in looking forward in this matter. As to my meriting his particular notice I had rather my friends would have patience to wait the issue of events than urge me to speak prematurely. I wish not to flatter myself or my friends too much. I should be exceedingly glad to hear of my Brother Bill's success in obtaining the situation you speak of. I fancy he is still poor. I am very glad to find Mr. Ewer give so good an account of both Mr. and Mrs. Clark.

I remain, my dear uncle, in much haste

Your obliged and affectionate nephew

THOMAS RUMNEY.

I did call on Mr. Fred Marsh and gave him an invitation to dine and spend a day with me at Hampstead, which he promised to do, but I have not had the pleasure of seeing him there.

London, 26th Nov., 1796.

REV. EDWARD CLARK.

DEAR SIR,

From supposing you may have thought me obstinately silent respecting my concerns in

office alluded to in my last, I now do myself the pleasure to give you and my friend Mrs. Clark a little information upon the subject. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Jones have not yet come to a settlement, for reasons which I am not at liberty to mention, but a complete and final arrangement is to take place on Tuesday next by the particular appointment of the former, and I hope it will prove both beneficial and satisfactory to us all. I have derived no assistance in office from Mr. Jones since the commencement of his illness, which encourages me to fancy that I shall find little or no inconvenience from not having recourse to it hereafter. I have reason to believe Mr. Johnson thinks me capable of managing his Compting House without the assistance of either superior or inferior and that he intends me to undertake it upon that footing. You know, Uncle Edward, I am not very clever (my lame education, which is no fault of mine, prevents it) but I am very sober, honest, diligent, punctual, active, civil etc. etc., and in carefully preserving those valuable qualities, which are nearly all that I have either to depend upon or boast of, I may *yet* do pretty well, say for both master and self. I cannot inform you at present what advance of salary I am to have, but suppose it will not be less than £30 per annum, besides the permission to continue to officiate for the member for Dover, whose allowance to me is £30 per annum. The amount of my salary according to this calculation will be £130 per annum; and

I am sanguine in the hope that I shall not be disappointed.

Should Mr. Johnson object to my doing Mr. Trevanion's business as usual, which I have already discovered symptoms of, I shall expect him to be so good as to pay me the £30 extra. I have had some conversation again with friend Trevanion upon the subject, and he gives it as his firm opinion that if Mr. Johnson does consent to my beginning to do the business of both, his temper will not allow of its being continued. I am, however, inclined to try him. Finding myself standing so very much alone in the face of those new undertakings, I should be very thankful for your opinion, advice or any other sort of assistance you can render me, which you may conceive me to stand in need of. I have often admired and profited by your well-timed hints, and all boys might be benefited by properly digesting the honest sentiments of men of real knowledge and experience.

I do not know when you may expect to see Mr. Charles Jones at Highworth, and I am not quite sure that he is so well pleased with a westerly prospect as he was some weeks ago. I have been exceedingly hurried for the last two months in shipping plantation stores for the West Indies and carefully attending to Mr. Johnson's books, and I find I must not relax for several weeks to come. The close confinement together with the required application to both writing and thinking is very stupefying, and believe me I find it good policy to

hop out of office at an early hour in the evening, and once a week to take a cheerful hop in a dancing room, which is attended with much benefit to both body and mind. I have a pleasure in dancing and have been in the habit of it for some time past, but have not suffered my money to dance out of my pocket by it, nor any deviation from my accustomed hour of retiring to my own bed chamber.

Mr. Johnson, his particular friend, Mr. Angerstein, and Mr. Devaynes, a banker, had an interview with Mr. Pitt yesterday for about two hours respecting the supplies to be raised for the use of Government by voluntary subscription. Mr. Pitt sent a plan the other day to Mr. Johnson for him to lay before his friends of which the following is an extract.

“The sum subscribed to be paid by instalments to bear an interest of 5% per annum and a bonus of from 10 to 12 per cent. to those who will lay out of their money for the whole term, which is not to exceed four years, but an optional power will be given to convert it into transferable security by relinquishing a part of the bonus.” But this plan has been laid aside by Mr. Pitt, and a second and third proposed, the second objected to by the contracting party, and the third likely to meet with the same fate. Mr. Johnson has nearly got rid of his large dish of shamefully spoilt gooseberry fool, and seems quite hungry again for some more that’s new and palatable.

I have not heard from any of my relations

lately, neither have I wrote to any one, but they are all indebted to me on the score of letter writing. I hope my kind aunt and yourself continue to enjoy pretty good health and spirits, and with every kind and respectful wish to you both

I remain

Your dutiful nephew and affectionate
humble servant

THOS. RUMNEY.

P.S. What answer am I to give Mr. Johnson if he asks me if I can find security for my good behaviour?

London, 30th November, 1796.

REV. EDWARD CLARK.

DEAR UNCLE,

Pray accept my best thanks for your kind attention in replying to my last per return of post. I did not, however, see it before yesterday morning. I have now to inform you that yesterday did prove a settling day with the parties mentioned in my last letter. Mr. Jones has taken his final leave of the Co. Ho., and Thomas Rumney reigneth in his stead. Upon what terms the former has resigned is unknown to the latter, who begs leave to observe that he can neither Laugh nor Cry to excess at the arrangement made respecting himself—100 guineas per annum with leave to go on in the management of Mr. Trevanion's business is the bargain effected. The advance is just half more than was my standing salary before, and may strike you as a pretty thing,

and I am also pleased at my income being increased, but in taking a full and impartial view of all the circumstances relative to the important arrangement, I cannot say this decision gives me heartfelt satisfaction, but I will not, neither is it necessary for me to trouble you with a tedious explanation now. I am freely inclined to persevere and keep my eyes open, and a necessary guard upon both tongue and pen. I thank you kindly for your offer of warranting me to be honest, but 100 guineas per annum deserves no security, and I hope I never shall have occasion to trouble you on this score. Mr. Morris informs me that he wrote to you on Monday and made you a remittance of £30, the stock alluded to was to be purchased this day he said, and Mr. Rutter would attend to the receiving of the dividends, which have not yet been taken up. Mr. Jones is in high spirits and says he intends to make a visit to Highworth at Xmas, and his nephew, Ned, is to accompany him.

My head is so full of Compting House business that I cannot with convenience or pleasure say more at present than that I remain the dutiful and affectionate nephew of Edw. and Jane Clark, Highworth.

THOS. RUMNEY.

The Bachelor Tom cat
And d^o Jack Rat
have devoured every bit
of the thin cheese —
And frost and snow has
hardly appeared yet.

London, 10th December, 1796.

MR. A. RUMNEY.

DEAR SIR,

I believe it is about two months since you wrote me a letter, which I acknowledged the receipt of, and I have wished to hear from you again latterly, and now request you will embrace the first opportunity in informing me how you yourself and my mother are particularly, and also how my sisters and friends are that are within the circle of your beat. I had a letter from my brother William about a month since, who informed me he had heard from you, and as he gave me upon the whole a satisfactory account of matters at Little Mellfell, it lessened my anxiety in not hearing from thence myself, but my housekeeper has dreamt, of my own death, and that she was in company with my mother particularly on the event &c. which makes me apprehensive that my mother may be more than usually indisposed, which I hope, however, is not the case, but I beg to hear from you and I hope your letter will come to hand before Xmas day. I am glad to understand that you gentleman farmers have such handsome produce upon your landed property. Bill says you have advanced your tenant's rent, and pray what do you rate your grounds worth per annum now? As you remain a bachelor and the times are favourable to land holders, your pocket and property ought to improve apace. I know you have old women

about you to provide for in a regular way, but still you must be doing very tolerably for your own benefit. Bill says you have a dislike to marrying a woman with much money, which is not the determined resolution of your brother Tom. A woman is surely not the worse for having money to a considerable amount, neither is she the better for not having any. Let us, my lad, consider well if the woman is well calculated to make us happy in a domestick state first, and then talk about money concerns, which with me is but a secondary consideration. But my brothers and sisters shall make their choice as they please without my interfering in a delicate business of this important nature.

Bill's Wedding affair seems at a stand. He depends too much on a helping hand from others. It would have been more discreet in him to have stood more upon his own bottom all along in life generally as well as in this matter. He has promised to pay me agreeable to the appointment you have made with him, and I hope I shall not suffer a further disappointment.

I think I gave you a hint in my last that I had a prospect of having my salary advanced by Mr. Jones going out of office, and I have now infinite pleasure in informing you (and I beg you will immediately tell it to my mother) that that fortunate circumstance has taken place, and that my salary is advanced just half more than what it was before, which was £70, so that it is now

a hundred guineas per annum, and at present I continue to do Mr. Trevanion's West India business, for which I am allowed £30 per annum, so that my nett salary is now £135 per annum. I hope my mother will have real pleasure in hearing this account of her son Thomas, whose promotion could not possibly have been obtained without real merit of his own. For the last two months I have gone through a wonderful deal of business in shipping plantation stores to the West Indies and other matters of office employ, which stupefied me to such a degree at times that I felt obliged to put on my dancing shoes and hop about till my head and heels were both relieved by it. I am now, however, through the bulk of the labour, and I hope to go on pretty regular and smooth. Mr. Johnson does not intend to keep two clerks as has always been the case ; I am to do the whole. I have no news to communicate to you from Highworth. My uncle and aunt are pretty well, I believe. I am thinking of sending my mother some tea and sugar again, and my sisters some old cast off cloaths, and if I can spare the time, I will send off the parcel next week, directed to you at the Swan Inn, Penrith. No, I will wait till I have a letter from you for the chance of sending you any little matter you may have a particular desire for, or my mother, or any of my sisters, to all whom pray remember me very affectionately. As Sam Clark has thought fit to defer complying with my particular request of writing to me for so

long, I hope he never will put himself to the trouble, which his silence bespeaks must be painful to him. Joseph Boak who lived at Tongue and was school fellow to Bill and I is dead, which melancholy event happened about a month since. He was remarkably stout and looked healthy. Mr. Wm. Todhunter is in the King's Bench prison for debt, and has been there, I fancy, about a month. How does he stand affected with regard to his connections with his family at Dacre? Pray ask my mammy what sort of tea she prefers, and if she has a wish for me to send her anything else besides tea and sugar. Do you know of anything of moderate value that I can send to her, my sisters, or any old family acquaintance or neighbour etc. For, believe me, my attachment to my native home is so strong, that I would willingly do anything prudent to give marks of proof of it. Altho' God only knows as circumstances have turned up lately, whether ever I may see it again or not. I must be contented with being chained to the desk for at least a few years to come. With every friendly and affectionate wish towards you all, I remain

Your loving brother and friend

THOS. RUMNEY.

CHAPTER VI

MOSTLY NORTHERN

London, 14th December, 1796.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

Your esteemed favour of the 10th inst. I have received and take the first opportunity of replying to it. It conveys matter so new and interesting and as I have a little information to give you respecting myself, I feel inclined to set about writing you a pretty long and serious letter. Yes, Bill, be assured I should be highly gratified in deliberately sitting down by a comfortable fireside with you to discuss the variety of matter over in the most friendly and unreserved manner that has transpired with us both since we last shook hands. The information you give me respecting the Holyoak's family engrosses my attention much, and I form various ideas upon it, but for want of a personal conversation with you, I cannot draw conclusions to enable me to give anything like a decided opinion in alluding to your acquaintance with Miss. The distribution of the old gentleman's immense property is certainly partial. £2000 principal and £2000 per annum

interest money is an astonishing disproportion, and seems hardly reconcileable, but I am a total stranger to the motives that has produced it. £2000—£500—by and by, followed up with the power and good-will you mention, in addition to the family interest in the Church, if there is any, is, my dear boy, in my humble opinion, a prospect by no means to be treated with indifference. Having formed a sketch of the circumstances of the lady, what may we venture to say with respect to the gentleman. Suppose an average salary of from £60 to £100, say there is £80 per annum for a year or two and after that £100 or upwards, to which must be added a certain something that will ultimately come into the account from Mr. Clark, so that in looking forward to the period of the non-existence of particular friends alluded to on both sides, I cannot hesitate to pronounce it a *good thing*, even in a pecuniary point of view, and in every other respect I am induced from all I know to think very favourably of it. Your withdrawing your pretensions entirely might cost you a great loss of time to bring matters upon so desirable a footing in a new channel. In short it appears to me that for once in the course of your life you have the opportunity of arranging matters upon the surest foundation you can expect in reason to meet with for permanent comfort in changing your condition. I wish much to have a personal conversation with you upon this important matter, as well as to

discuss many other things that occupy my thoughts every now and then, and which are not suited to introduce in a letter, but as to our meeting it is totally out of my power (riveted to the desk as I am now) to propose coming to Overbury or appointing a half-way house, and do not see how it can be effected without your taking the trouble to pay a visit to the Metropolis at once, and that scheme, I suppose, would be attended with much inconvenience to you, if possible to be done. If you should like to set about it in the spring, or when it might best suit you, I certainly should recommend its being made quite private and entirely unknown to Mr. and Mrs. Clark of Highworth to whom you may be assured I will take no notice of the news you have communicated to me. I have just received a letter from Mr. Clark full of little commissions. Mrs. Clark wants a loaf of sugar if the new tax is not laid on, a cod-fish etc. is wanted for the 1st Jany., a stock receipt to be taken up at Mr. Rutter's to save the expense of postages. Economy you will perceive from this is as strictly attended to as ever. What you say respecting them in your letter is very true, and I join you in the opinion that it is wise to let them jog on undisturbed. I have mentioned to Mr. Clark very attentively the new arrangement that has taken place in our Co. Ho. and I asked for his opinion and advice, but he declined giving me either and seemed to wish to be excused either saying or doing anything in it whatever. Luckily

I have had no occasion to trouble him. I supposed security in succeeding Mr. Jones might have been wanted, but it has not proved so. I have now to inform you that Mr. Jones has taken his final leave of the Compting House, and Mr. Johnson has appointed me his successor in office in Co. Ho. duty but not in salary. I have not failed, however, to obtain what I suggested to you was my expectation, added to which is £5, making the advance half as much more as was my standing salary before of £70, so that my new establishment is just 100 guineas per annum.

Saddled in the business as I am, this allowance is not satisfactory. Mr. Johnson has always kept two clerks and been in the habit of giving a liberal salary to the head one, and now I am to take the charge of the whole concern and put up with an inferior reward. At present it may be good policy to be whist, and I shall treat it so, but by and by I hope to obtain better terms. Jones is allowed an annuity in addition to his own means of support, but it has not yet come to my knowledge what it is. He goes down to Highworth next week to spend his Xmas but has not fixed yet upon building his mansion of retirement there. At present he seems like a schoolboy, quite elated at being released from the office, but I am afraid his pleasures will not be permanent. There is little or no communication between him and me at present. I continue yet to do business for the member for Dover, but am afraid Johnson will not

suffer it long, but if he does make me give it up I hope to be able to make him pay for it. My income is now pretty decent, but I am still poor and do not see that I shall be quite easy in pecuniary matters before Lady Day on the 30th April next, after which period I hope I shall never have occasion to complain.

The hurry of business with me for the last two months was such that I was at times quite stupefied with it, and actually went to the Old Change to take a dance by way of remedy, and I assure you that it produced that sort of relief that I stood in need of. I cannot say that I am quite well at present. My head and stomach is very so so. I find I cannot continue well without bodily exercise. I am sorry to inform you that our old school fellow Joe Boak is dead, which happened about a month since. He was a remarkably stout and healthy young man in appearance. I must also tell you that your old acquaintance William Todhunter has lately been promoted to a dishonourable berth in the King's Bench prison, where he has been about a month. I understand he has as much pleasure in being obstinate as ever. My brother Anthony has not wrote to me since you gave me some information respecting him. I wrote to him on Saturday and desired that he would write to me soon and let me know how my mother was etc. I had promised to send her a little tea and sugar and my sisters some old cloaths for their children this Christmas, but shall

wait till Anthony's letter comes to hand first. I cannot help raising a ha! ha! at daddy's remark in reflecting on his deceased brother, and I am pleased with your observing that grieving is a folly etc. I hope I shall again hear from you ere long. Pray accept the compliments of the approaching season, and believe me

Your affectionate brother and sincere friend

THOS. RUMNEY.

London, 17th December, 1796.

REV. MR. CLARK.

DEAR UNCLE,

Herewith you will receive a loaf of sugar weighing 11 lbs. 6 at 13*d.* and 6 lbs. at 1/- per lb., cost 18/4. The 13*d.* is of a decent colour and quality, but the 12*d.* is very brown, but may be convenient to use occasionally. I could not get a loaf of a larger size at 13*d.* and I thought ten or a dozen pounds would fall short of the quantity you might expect, which induced me to add the six pounds of inferior quality. They tell me the new tax is not charged upon it. Your directions respecting the fish shall be attended to. The two thin cheeses will be acceptable and my friend Johnny Carleton and I thank you kindly for them. The Stock receipt I have the pleasure to enclose. No, no, not a scrap of scrip. You are right respecting the old and young witches, but peeping Tom has a wary eye for each. Mr. Jones, I fancy, will set his face

toward you about the middle of next week. With compliments of the approaching season, and best respects to you and Mrs. Clark, I remain

Your affectionate humble servant

THOMAS RUMNEY.

London, 29th December, 1796.

REV. MR. CLARK.

DEAR UNCLE,

I have always pleasure in complying with your requests and should be happy in following your directions in forwarding the fish, but find it impossible. Enclosed is a list for your information respecting the coaches by which you will see that the Tetbury coach sets out this afternoon and not again before Sunday, consequently the fish cannot be sent by it from London to Farringdon on the 31st which is your particular remark; as the Cirencester coach sets off to-morrow evening at 6 o'clock, and I think must arrive in time at Farringdon the next morning to be conveyed by the post boy or some other means to your cook by the time she may want it, I have concluded to send it by that conveyance and hope my provision will be in time for the feast at which I heartily wish you and Mrs. Clark and your friends much pleasure and Edward and Jane many happy returns of the day. My friend, Nanny Kirk, without receiving my orders has prepared a large brown cake, half a dozen Yorkshire cakes, and a

small pot of potted beef for me to present to you on the occasion which I am ashamed to receive from her, but as they are just come to hand by the errand man, I must do her the justice to forward them to you. I suppose she found the honey sweet and cannot forget the taste of it. I have the pleasure to say the two cheeses arrived safe and prove very good. I fancy you were very particular in delivering a verbal direction with them, where they were to be taken to, for such is the milk and water written one, that we Cockneys know not how to make it out. I beg leave to enclose it to be reprinted for a future occasion. Perhaps my aunt in a hurry to oblige set the milk instead of the ink bottle before you. In the package containing sweetmeats is a snuff box for my aunt, which I hope she will do me the favour to accept of, and I hope she will excuse my having sent it empty, which I certainly should not have done, had I known her favourite sort of snuff.

From not having been near Mr. Charles Jones for several weeks and supposing he might have taken umbrage at it, I went and paid my respects to him at the Angel Inn Edmonton last Sunday but one, and two of his nephews, John Gale and the Antigonian went with me. We found him in high spirits and apparent good health. His objects of amusement seem not to be at all related to pen, ink, and paper and appear to me quite of a temporary nature. Where he intends to build his mansion of retirement I do not know, and do not suppose he

himself has fixed upon the ground yet. He and I are friends for anything I know at present and I know of no reason why we should not continue so. Whether he is at this moment at Edmonton or Highworth I do not know. I understood when I was with him that he intended setting off for the latter place a week ago, but some men's minds are almost as unsteady as the wind. I had the pleasure of being informed the other day by my Brother Anthony that my mother has been in tolerable good health latterly, and that agriculture goes on in a very flourishing manner in Cumberland. Tony Lumpkin talks of 100 guineas per annum clear of taxes arising from his landed property, but seems very angry with Mr. Pitt for laying on such heavy taxes. He informs me that he has lately lost two of his neighbours in one week, viz. Mr. John Atkinson of Cragg and Mr. Skelbuck of Bennett Head—the former aged 78, the latter 87 years. In the course of ten days I purpose sending off my annual present of tea and sugar for my mother and some old cloaths for the use of my sisters' children, which I suppose will be acceptable, but my mother tells me not to send anything to her boys and girls as they are enabled to provide for themselves.

I have taken the liberty of sending Mrs. Clark a pound and a half of breakfasting tea at 4/- per pound, which I beg her acceptance of, and that you will allow me to charge you with it. I had it from a Mr. Stringer's, Monument Yard. It has

the character of being good and cheap. The spirited and economical Nanny makes use of it and recommends it to her friends generally. When you advised me to retain my hold of scrip (if I had any) I fancy you saw Lord Malmesbury in the mind's eye recrossing the water pregnant with glad tidings for John Bull.* The wheel of Fortune has run the wrong way sadly of late. Fifteen millions Old Omn. knocked down at from 10 to 11 per cent. discount and a fresh engagement for the same sum standing now at from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent. on the same side of destruction would be somewhat alarming to desponding minds, but at the South Sea House we are always comforted by hope in looking out ahead.

The mild morning has proved lucky for you in the purchase of fish. The one I have made a choice of is very fresh and a handsome size, and I think preferable to two small ones. I have paid 8/6 for it. Last week its equal could not have been bought for less than three times the price. I have put in some oranges and lemons as before—the lemons very dear 6*d.* each—no shrimps to be had—have sent a couple of lobsters in lieu of them. I hope they will all arrive safe and in good condition and be devoured with keen appetites.

Inclosed is a list of the contents of both box and basket, and the particulars of what I have

* Lord Malmesbury, Minister Plenipotentiary, returned from France on Dec. 25th, all negotiations being abruptly broken off by an order for his quitting within forty-eight hours.

charged you with. I hope your friends have not neglected to supply you with oysters sufficient. With kindest wishes to my aunt and yourself and compliments to inquiring friends, I remain

Your dutiful and affectionate nephew

THOMAS RUMNEY.

In the Box	$\frac{1}{2}$ doz. Yorkshire Cakes
	A lunch Cake
	A small Pot of Potted Beef
	1 doz. Oranges
	2 Lemons
	$1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Tea
	A Snuff Box
In the Matted Parcel	a Cod Fish (2 notches in the tail)
	2 Lobsters!

Fish	8	6
Lobsters	3	0
$1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Tea	6	0
	17	6

To be taken up at Mr.
Rutter's per T. R. and
18/- for sugar

18	4
£1	15 10

London, 25th January, 1797.

MRS. MARY RUMNEY.

MY DEAR MOTHER,

It is a long time since I wrote to you or have received a letter from you. I was glad to understand by my brother A.'s letter, dated 12th December last that you was pretty well in health I hope you still continue to enjoy tolerable health. and spirits and I heartily wish you may live to enjoy many returns of the New Year. I cannot

boast of a strong constitution myself. I am very languid and thin and much relaxed, which, however, has been the case ever since I was a child. Extreme heat or cold affects me much, and I am now deprived of the benefit of a pure air and natural exercise. I, however, live very regular. Mr. Carleton and I are well suited to live together. Luxuries, or any sort of extravagance or intemperance is entirely avoided by us, both from true inclination—perhaps we may not be able to live to an old age in this transitory life, but we wish to live in a sober, Christianlike manner. I desired my brother A. in my last to inform you that my salary was improved lately in consequence of a change in our Compting House. This is a happy event to me and I stood in need of better wages from the great advance of almost all the necessaries of life. I have now 100 guineas per year of Mr. Johnson and £30 per year from another gentleman whom I am allowed by Mr. Johnson to do business for, and what with some other little pecuniary (advantages) arising from the employ of both, I can venture to call my whole income about £150 per annum, £100 of which I am obliged to spend. My preferment in office makes it necessary to appear genteely dressed always and is the occasion of my incurring other expenses I was not saddled with before. My uncle Edward seems exceedingly well pleased and gratified with my success, which proved to him beyond all possible doubt that I have obtained it entirely from my own

merit, and he does not refuse to acknowledge that I must have behaved very well ever since I came to London, and I now think it not too much at this time of day to say myself that I have been dutiful both to him, you and myself. I had always a pride in endeavouring to do credit to my family, and a complete satisfaction to my friends and benefactors, and on that head I begin to feel the gratification—I hope a year or two longer will enable me to settle myself in life very comfortably in changing my condition by marrying, which is a circumstance I much wish should take place, when it can be prudently effected. I have no female in my eye at present whatever, neither am I in any hurry, but if you can recommend me to a rich, steady, notable and good-tempered lady I should be obliged to you. I feel the disposition to write you a very long letter, but am not at leisure to do it at present, and hope you will excuse me. I have sent my sisters some old clothes and you some tea and sugar which I beg your acceptance of. My uncle and aunt of Highworth are pretty well, and were very merry in seeing their friends on New Year's Day, which is their wedding day, and they always keep it. I sent them fish etc. from London. Believe me to recontinue

Your dutiful and affectionate son

THOMAS RUMNEY.

I have put in 3 lbs. of tea at 4/6 per lb. and 6 lbs. of sugar at 1/1, and perhaps I may spare you a little moist sugar.

London, 25th January, 1797.

MRS. BARBARA POLLOCK.

MY DEAR SISTER,

I have but just time by this opportunity to write you a few lines by way of how do you do. I have sent a bundle of old clothes to be divided or made use of as you may think proper, and I shall be glad if they are found at all useful to any of you. I have been looking about London streets for weeks past for something for a present for you and my other two sisters and I am ashamed to say I have not been able to meet with anything to please myself, and have not put an article of any kind into the bundle excepting 2/6 of new silver of the present years coin, which I beg your acceptance of. My brother Anthony will have informed you ere this of my late success in having obtained a better salary in office, and which I flatter myself was acceptable news to you all. I have succeeded the very person in office whom my uncle Edward recommended me to, when I first came to London, and who has left the business in consequence of bad health. I am truly glad of this instance of good fortune, and particularly so as it gives my uncle an absolute proof of my having made good use of my time in improving my abilities and conducting myself with propriety since I came here.

Mr. Carleton and I jog on very soberly and

have much amusement in talking about our old native home, which I see no prospect of either of us seeing again at least for several years to come. Such is my engagements now that I cannot possibly absent myself out of town on any consideration. We sometimes talk about getting married, but we know of no ladies that we have anything to say to, or that have anything to say to us. My brother Will is very well in health, I believe, but not rich yet. I am sorry to hear of the death of some of my old neighbours. I hope the Rev. Mr. Atkinson has married both to his comfort and advantage, but I am not informed of what family he has connected himself with. I hope your son is going on well. I fancy you keep him at school. I think I told my brother where Todhunter lodged, and I do not hear that he has got released yet. I am glad to hear that the ground in Cumberland produces handsomely now, but the taxes increase very fast. I have wrote a few lines to my mother, my two sisters and my brother A. by this opportunity. I shall be exceedingly glad to hear from you, and I am, as I always was

Your loving and affectionate brother

THOMAS RUMNEY.

Instead of 2/6 in money I have sent you a silver toothpick, which I hope will please. My other sisters have one sent them of the same kind.

[Similar letters to his two other sisters, Elizabeth Rumney and Mrs. Ann Trimble.]

London, 25th January, 1797.

MR. ANTHONY RUMNEY.

MY DEAR SIR,

Your letter of the 12th December came duly to hand and I thank you for it. I note the death of your two aged neighbours with a certain degree of sympathy and regret, but they have lived to a good old age, and I hope have spent their time in this life so as to be made much more happy in the next. You do not give me any account of the family connection Mr. Atkinson has formed by marrying. Miss Breeks I know nothing of; I never heard the name before. I will inform your brother of this event when I write to him, which I shall do in a day or two. I am glad my mother is free from tormenting pain and holds up pretty well. I lately asked you her age, but you gave me no answer. I always wish to receive answers to pointed and particular questions. I have sent her 3 lbs. of tea at 4/6, and 6 lbs. of sugar at 1/1 per lb. These articles I have thought too high priced here to send you any. The expense of conveyance would, added to the price I pay, make both the tea and sugar dearer than I daresay you would purchase them at Penrith. I have given a low price as you informed me it was my mother's request. Perhaps I may put in a little moist sugar, which is also high here as indeed every necessary article which is in common use. I have sent you the book called "The Country Gentlemen's

Lawyer," 3/-, also the Lady's Annual Journal with a neat frontispiece, which I hope you will approve of. I wished much to send my sisters something worth their acceptance that was neat and handsome and have plagued myself much about it, and have not pleased myself at last, and have sent nothing more than each of them a silver toothpick, which I hope, however, will please and be acceptable. I have wrote each of them a few lines and with those little matters I will be obliged to you to deliver with my kindest respects the very first convenient opportunity. I have sent a bundle of cast-off clothes which after you have looked over I leave for you to distribute as you may think proper. I will enclose you a list of them with some remarks. I intend to send my mother a present of a little tea and sugar annually as long as she may live and it be in my power. I cannot, however, afford to be more profuse at present, as I am not full of money. Between this and the 30th April I shall have to receive 50 guineas of Mr. Johnson for salary which will set me quite square. I hope Bill will be punctual at paying me the £8 at Lady Day, which he has promised to do, but he has not his brother Tom's circumspection and keenness about him. I have real pleasure in now telling you that I feel more easy and satisfied with my new harness than I thought I should be and with good health I now have nothing to fear, and I flatter myself that henceforward both my purse and consequence in life will regularly increase to the admiration and perfect

satisfaction of all my friends, but more particularly those of my own family.

You seem in Cumberland to ride rusty under Mr. Pitt's flogging whip, but if you will not lead you must be driven. We want money and you must pay your proportion. You astonish me by telling me that my old schoolfellow Matt Gridale has entered into the King's service in a military capacity of low rank. I wish him, however, great pleasure and success in cutting off the Frenchmen's ears. I am sorry for the cause that obliges you to pay £3 to the raising of the militia but rejoice to be informed by yourself that you are so well able to pay it—no grumbling, my Boy! when you can reckon the income of your landed property at 100 guineas per annum. I calculate my income at about half as much more, but am obliged by the advanced price of things generally, and the nature of my promotion to spend 100 of it. As to the idea you have suggested of my laying my cash by for a good purpose, I have to say in reply that I hope it will have that happy consequence. It may assist in purchasing a wife which is an object I look forward to derive a most solid and permanent comfort from, and which I hope I may be able to obtain upon the foundation of wisdom and prudence in the course of a year or two hence. I have no gentle female that is calculated for me in my eye at present, but such an article may probably be found in diligently looking for. Carleton and I please ourselves now and then

with such like notions, but there seem to be consequences attending matrimony that give us the horrors. You enquire after Jimmy Richardson, I have pleasure in informing you that I had a letter from him very lately from Spithead, where he is Steward to a Purser on board one of His Majesty's frigates, and is in good health and spirits. Todhunter is still in prison, I fancy. I am truly sorry my old fellow labourer is unwell, tell him I heartily wish him better, and to drop all thoughts of sending me anything here. I have no wish to receive compliments in the way he seems to have an idea of paying, and he is very welcome to any civility I may have shown him. Postage is extravagantly advanced, but I beg it may never prevent your writing to me. I understand our friends at Highworth were very happy in receiving their friends on their wedding day, the 1st inst. I sent a large codfish down and sundry articles for the occasion according to their own order with which they seem to have been pleased. I have had no material account from my brother William since I wrote to you last, and I fancy he has now nearly abandoned his matrimonial scheme. You do not inform me of your being recovered from your late indisposition, consequently I conclude you are either quite well or nearly so. The following is a list of the clothes as well as the contents of the bundle, viz.—2 Black Coats, 2 Black Waistcoats, 2 do Pairs Breeches, 1 Brown Coat, 1 Green Coat, 1 Pair Brown C^d Breeches, 1

Pair Black do, 1 Pair White Casamere do, 3 Striped Waistcoats, 1 Pair of leather breeches, 1 Pair of old trousers, a hat, 4 old shirts, a great coat. The great coat is nearly new and is only damaged by the bottom behind being wore, which was done in my being obliged to ride home in the basket behind the coach from Oxford to London the last time I went to see my brother Bill. I should not have sent you this coat, but I have not real occasion for it, as I wear in its stead a half greatcoat, or what is called a Spencer. If you can allow me something for it or find a customer for it, I should be glad. I fancy the sleeves are too narrow for your arms. As to the rest of the things I leave it entirely to you and my sisters to agree about the division. I fancy I shall have to send another year one of the black suits I lately purchased second-hand for my own use, but I do not find it quite good enough. I am now obliged to be very particular in my dress. I never hear of my brother William sending his cast-off cloathes. Does he or does he not? I shall be glad to hear that this bundle gets safe to hand. I have left you to pay the carriage of it amongst you. Another year I may be better able to pay it for you. I remain with every kind wish towards you

Your sincere well-wisher and
affectionate brother,

THOMAS RUMNEY.

The whole forwarded by waggon from White Horse, Cripple Gate, January, 1797.

CHAPTER VII

DOMESTIC AND MILITARY

London, 23rd January, 1797.

REV. MR. CLARK.

DEAR SIR,

I am very glad to find the fish etc. got safe to hand and was so highly approved of. The 1st sugar appeared to me very brown and spungy and I was not pleased with my bargain. Highworth market is at this rate 15 % higher than ours. Suppose you open a shop in the grocery line and allow me a commission. You can deal in fish also and Yorkshire cakes, when you know how to make them.

I am sorry to tell you Mrs. Kirk felt quite indisposed on receiving the pork from your hands. My friends Mr. Carleton and I partook of it with her, and we all thought it the most delicious we ever tasted, and I fancy Nanny was better able to digest upon her stomach than her mind. She desires me to thank you kindly for it, and I beg leave to join her. It really was very good. I have to thank you also for the stockings, which are just a fit for me and very comfortable. From the

account you give of the feast I am persuaded I should have been a happy boy at my aunt's elbow. I thank you and the company for the compliment paid me and am very sensible of the honor done me.

Your message to Mr. Rutter was delivered to himself immediately, and he observed to me that he was very sorry to find that he had neglected to send you some oysters as usual. I have not seen Mr. Charles Jones since I last wrote to you. I am told he has changed his lodgings again and is still at Edmonton, where I fancy he intends to continue, but such is the situation I stand in between him and the world that it behoves me to say very little concerning his proceedings at present. I have pleasure in being able to say that Mr. Johnson continues to treat me with as much respect as I either wish for or expected. The following is the direction given me how to make the cakes, viz.

FOR THE YORKSHIRE CAKES.

To a quartern of Flour rub in $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of Butter, half a pint of Yeast; and to be kned with warm milk, and after rolled out to stand till risen.

FOR SEED CAKES.

To a quartern of Flour 1 lb. of Butter.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of Carraway Seeds.

A little more Yeast than $\frac{1}{2}$ pint will hold.

To be kned with milk and a gill of cream, and when risen add one pound of moist sugar.

I have my doubts if this account is quite correct as it was taken down in great haste. With my best respects to my aunt and thanks for her kind favours, I remain, dear uncle,

Your much obliged and affectionate nephew

THOS RUMNEY.

As Mr. Trevanion required my attendance on him upon business yesterday in St. James's Street at his own hour, I asked him for a Frank without ceremony.

London, 26th January, 1797.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

REV. BILLY,

I thank you for your kind congratulations upon the little success, which has lately fell in my way. I am afraid I shall not profit much upon the present establishment of being promoted, which has brought an evil with it, viz. an increase in my expenses—a better coat and the expense of a dinner . . . (undecipherable) is the unavoidable consequence. My Xmas bills are dropping in, my Taylor has contrived to make out a list to the Amount of £14, Boots, Shoes, Washing, Hair-dressing, Housekeeper's wages etc. added make me fear sadly, and I begin again to look forward to the 30th April next for a general release from all my debts. I have just for my government drawn out an account of what payments to keep up my credit I must make almost immediately, and I am astonished to see it amount to a little

the wrong side of 50 guineas. Carleton has, however, lent me £21 and if I am as fortunate as I have every reason to expect in receiving the money that is owing to me, I shall still square matters to my satisfaction. I have lost about 10 guineas from out my desk but can't trace by what means it has been taken away. I have had my desk repaired and pay more attention to it. I am obliged now to be exceedingly attentive from the variety of cash accounts I have to keep, and there being matters of the first importance that daily require a lively thought. I assure you it requires a very sober, diligent and attentive person to fill the post I have now to manage and I ought to be paid better wages. I have sent my old clothes into the north and some tea and sugar for my mother. I have wrote a few lines to A., my mother and three sisters, and have put the letters into the bundle to save postage, which is much advanced, but I can't always avail myself in sending my letters by waggon instead of post. I had a few lines from Mr. Clark last week. It seems they were quite merry on the 1st inst., and the fish etc. was highly approved of. Mr. Clark excuses himself writing much by saying his hand always gets cramped by writing, which may be very true. In A.'s last letter of the 12th December he tells me that John Atkinson, of Cragg, and William Skelbuck, of Bennett Head, both died lately in one week. He desires me to tell you that the

former's son (the Rev. Atkinson) was married the week before his father's death to a Miss Breeks, whom however I have not the smallest knowledge of. He might have told me of what family etc. It seems you know all about it. He says he pays £3, his proportion towards raising the new militia, at which he grumbles. Matt Grisdale has enlisted himself to serve his Majesty. Our mother is pretty well, but falls off a little. Jim Clark is not well, Barbara, Ann and Betsy I am not told anything about. Sam Clark I wrote to some time ago and particularly requested him to write to me, and even put questions for him to answer to make it more plain and easy to him, but the simple and inattentive young fellow has not even acknowledged the receipt of my letter, and I have but a very poor opinion of him for having behaved so very improperly.

As to the complicated affair respecting Miss H. I can have nothing further to communicate from being unacquainted with what it seems cannot very well be communicated to me, and I leave it to your wisdom and prudence to treat as it seemeth best for the good of thyself. Jimmy Richardson is well and now on board the Phaeton Frigate, Spithead. Carleton and all my household are well. I have only been to one genteel dance this winter, and the entrance was not genteeler than 3/6. I was, however, happy in tossing my spindles about and in noticing a Miss Luiza that I was introduced to through friend

Carleton, a well-behaved little hussy and of a decent family, but without much cash. I should be gratified to know what occurs with you, and am

Your affectionate brother

THOMAS RUMNEY.

London, 4th February, 1797.

MR. A. RUMNEY.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your last letter and to tell you that I sent the bundle off on the 25th of last month, and presume it will get to hand about the time this will reach you. I should have sent it sooner but my new concerns in office require a great deal more attention of consequence than I have ever been entrusted with, and I am very willing to give perfect satisfaction to both my employers. I thank you for the compliment you pay me in having noticed Tom to be attentive, punctual etc., which is an excellent character to a man in business and is also a good one to a man out of it. Without a good character I should not be able to procure either food or raiment here. In the bundle you will find a long letter to yourself, one for my mother, and one for each of my sisters, to which letters I beg leave to refer you for a general account of myself up to the date of them since nothing extraordinary has transpired

with me. I have left the carriage to be paid by you or some other one or more of you. I am poor in pocket at present. I have wrote to Brother Wm. and have given him a hint of his engagement to pay me off at Lady Day. Another year if no misfortune turns up I expect to put 60 or 70 pounds into the Bank of England. I have *now* a nest egg there invested in the Irish Short Annuity, which yields a very handsome interest, and where I recommend all the old bachelors and old maids to put their spare cash. I feel comfort in having paid my mother off, and I hope she is now pretty well satisfied with my conduct in life. Notwithstanding all that I fear my sister Betty may have said to my prejudice, I shall never have the satisfaction of being thought well of by that young woman again; I am persuaded her mind is not enlightened enough to admit of it, which I am at times really grieved at. I am glad my mother is so very well and I hope the tea and sugar I have sent her will tend to make her still better. Pray give my duty and affectionate wishes to her. I have sent the "Country Gentleman's Lawyer" and have no doubt of its containing the information you want, but the fresh taxes laid on in the last Session of Parliament cannot be in it, no list of which was published when I sent the parcel off. "Kearsley's Annual Tax Tables" is a very useful little book for both Town and Country and its cost very little. I meant to have sent it, but it was not published, when it is I will take a

favourable opportunity of sending it down to you. I send it to Square Toes every year. I am not sorry to hear of your being made to pay smartly for sitting upon saddles, when you are above riding upon pads as your forefathers did. You should always pay for representing your consequence without grumbling. Gentlemen must expect to be imposed upon who keep fine horses to ride over people. Postage is much increased by the new tax. Your letter is charged 8*d.*, but I have cheated Mr. Pitt at that rate out of $\frac{3}{4}$ by having sent 5 letters by waggon. I hope you will not be in the least displeased with me for telling you that you generally say at the conclusion of your letters—"Your obliging brother" which ought to be "obliged brother." You should pay your friend the compliment in such like instances, that you are obliged or indebted to him and not give the compliment to yourself by saying you are obliging etc. I am sure you will take this as a proof of my friendship to you. To say at the conclusion "I am your affectionate" or that "I am your obliged brother" is very proper. Although postage is high I hope you will not let it prevent you writing when ever you see occasion or may feel disposed. I went to see Mr. Todhunter in the King's Bench last week, in order to give a proof of my harbouring no animosity or ill-will towards him, as I cannot bear to be always at war with my fellow creatures. He was glad to see me and in good health and spirits. When he will get released

is uncertain. He says he has not told his relations of his misfortunes

I remain

Your affectionate brother,

THOS. RUMNEY.

London, 25th February, 1797.

(Summary.)

REV. WILLIAM RUMNEY.

Wrote to him this day—about the money he owes me which I told him I was glad to find I might depend on having by Lady Day—told him about Mr. Charles Jones, and that I had not heard from Mr. Edward Clark since my last letter to him—that I could give him no account of the Rev. Mr. Heslop—I paid the postage of the letter 7*d.*—told him I should be very glad to hear from him on all occasions—told him I conceived the Curate Act lately passed in his favour and would have made him free from all complaints about poverty.

London, 28th February, 1797.

REV. EDWARD CLARK,

Highworth.

Well, Mr. Clark, what do you think of publick affairs now, when the 3 per cents are about 50 and loyalty at 10 per cent. discount, and the Bank of England finds it necessary to refuse to accommodate their customers with guineas as usual. I have now

to tell you that the public were yesterday thrown into great consternation from an order of Council having been sent to the Bank to prohibit their issuing any more specie, and in consequence of it a bill is expected to be passed with all possible despatch through Parliament for the issue of small Bank Notes, say as low as 2 and 1 guineas. This alarm has not depressed the stocks which have revived a little, but the knowing ones seem afraid to meddle at present. Johnson sold 2000 Consols three weeks ago and purchased 400 per ann. of the Irish Short Annuity, and is well satisfied with the change. This stock is well calculated for the spare cash of poor clerks, and I heartily wish I could purchase £50 per annum of it to comfort myself with the idea of my income being about £200 per annum, which was the stipend of my predecessor. Mr. Bury calculates this stock to yield at present an interest of 10 per cent. being at 7 to 8 years purchase. Mr. Johnson now holds £700 per annum of it. I hope you have adopted some means by which you have profited during those extraordinary fluctuations. Mr. Bury recommended Mr. Johnson to dispose of his long annuity last week if he had any and to purchase Consols. Mr. B., like every other man, is not always right, but is latterly become much noted in his profession, and is allowed to have at least a good general knowledge of politicks, as well as of the immediate spring that affects the concerns in the Alley. I am sorry to tell you that Mr. Charles

Jones is reported to be going on very imprudently at Edmonton—so much so that I fancy it will be very soon necessary for some of his own family friends to interfere and put a stop to his extravagance at least. His neighbours entertain an idea of him I do not like to mark down in black and white, neither do I conceive it a subject for me to say much to you about. Postage is so much advanced that I am unwilling to write to you without my letter being franked in which I have been lucky latterly. The last letter I received from my brother A. date three weeks back mentioned my mother to be in tolerable health and spirits. As to my brother William he seems either unable or unwilling to make himself comfortable, but am much of opinion the latter is the case. Anthony, I think, is somewhat more brisk than usual, and is, I daresay, getting on very prettily. My sisters I know very little about. The two eldest, Barbara and Ann, has each a son of about 12 or 13 years old, I suppose, and I have been thinking that one if they have been kept constantly at school might, if approved of by friends, be put under my care and brought forward in the Compting House in the course of a year or two.

I should have real pleasure in serving my family in an instance of this sort, but at present I am not in circumstances to warrant my laying myself open to much risk. I have experienced already the most bitter disappointment and uneasiness in having been concerned so much as I have with both my brother William and sister Elizabeth, but

I may not be so unfortunate in future. Before I undertake to promote *my* nephews it may be necessary to look closely at what has been the issue of your kind endeavours in a similar concern.

Inclosed is a letter from Mr. John Jones to his brother Richard, and pray send it over directly, and which I believe contains a summons for Richard to come up to town immediately in order to take some steps to prevent his brother Charles from falling into further ridicule and disorder. Mr. Johnson has recommended this measure in being called upon at 1 o'clock to-day by some of Mr. Jones's friends. Please to present my duty and best respects to my aunt, who, I hope, is quite well, as well as yourself, and I remain, dear uncle, your dutiful and affectionate nephew—THOS. RUMNEY.

Consols have left off at $52\frac{1}{4}$ for money and about 53 for the next Settling Day. The new Bank Notes will be ready to be issued on Thursday and are to be of £2 and £1 value, and Mr. Carleton, who is a clerk in the Bank, tells me the Bank discounted 3200 bills yesterday, which is more by above 1000 than is ever known to have been done before.

I have just finished shipping £3000 in goods to the islands of Grenada and St. Vincent for Mr. Trevanion, the chief part in mules and timber to replace the damage done by the French.

Mules are dear—9 of them cost 20 guineas each, 3 of which have latterly been in the habit of drawing 30 Butts of Porter in a Brewer's dray about London Streets.

Johnson, Trevanion, and their obliging servant Tom continue to agree so far very well, but the M.P. often prevents my attending my church of the Sunday mornings.

London, 7th March, 1797.

REV. MR. CLARK,
Highworth.

Yes Sir, I can accommodate you and your suite at the Old Garrison without the least difficulty or inconvenience and I hope to your satisfaction. You say for two nights only. I hope you have made a mistake and that you mean two weeks, indeed I sh^d be glad to have you remain with me for good, and flatter myself I could contrive a snug plan for the purpose. Having both a country and town house I would treat you with a relish of fresh air and smoke when you might have occasion, and it would give me real pleasure to pay attention to you and render you and my good aunt every service in my power. Hampstead which is 5 miles from the Metropolis from the Royal Exchange is situated upon an eminence similar to Highworth, and is in my opinion the very spot you would make choice of for a residence in this part, and if you wish me to strike a bargain for you with the view of transporting yourself to it an opportunity now offers, for my friend Nanny is about to give up the care of her house to her niece and quit it herself to undertake the management of a gentleman's house

in Norfolk, and she has appointed me accountant and assistant general to her estate affairs on Holly Bush Hill.

Mr. Richard Jones arrived in town on Friday and brought me your letter in the afternoon and yours to Mr. Rutter was delivered to Mr. Morris the same evening. Mr. Richard has had an interview with his brother Charles, I believe, but I have not heard the result of it. I am sorry Dr. Marsh has been so much indisposed, but am glad he is on the mending hand. I am also glad to hear of his son's promotion in the Militia. From having been repeatedly solicited to join our artillery company in the city, I have at last become a member, and was introduced by my friend Mr. Wigzell, and who has saved me about two guineas expense in helping me to my accoutrements. This is a volunteer comp^y and all the members very respectable and the expense not great. I have not been induced to enter into this little affair so much from a wish to be a soldier as from the hope of deriving benefit to my health, and I cannot say but I am much pleased with it, but I will take care not to be too much so. They tell me I look much like a Frenchman when I am completely equipped in my regimentals. I have not been drilled yet, but shall be obliged to join in the procession of about 300 tomorrow, Wednesday, to St. Paul's Church. Their annual Ball was last night at the London Tavern, when about 600 were present and nephew Tom amongst them, dancing with the Captain's lady

in full uniform. This business will cost me one pound per annum, Irish Short Annuity at the present price, but it may not be all lost, for who knows what profit may arise from wearing a red coat. I have, however, no prospect of tumbling into a greasy commission yet.

£10 per annum given to gain ten times ten by it would be worth all the trouble of getting it effected by taking a journey—but a residence—on Hampstead Heath or Highgate Hill might be productive of still better savings.

Mr. Richard Jones tells me your curate, Mr. Worgan, is not likely to remain with you much longer, but he does not say that a successor is yet fixed upon. I shall be very glad to hear from you again before you bend your sails for the Metropolis. Pray let me know what my aunt suggests as needful for me to prepare for the reception of People of Highworth. With kindest wishes to my aunt and yourself

I remain

Your affectionate nephew

THOMAS RUMNEY.

[The last letter continued]

16 March, 1797.

Mr. Richard Jones is still here and I fancy will be retained a few days longer. I fear his journey to town will neither be attended with comfort nor advantage to himself. From your account respecting the sugar colonies I am led to suppose that the

packet we have so long been looking out for must have arrived at Highworth. No material advance in the price of sugar has taken place yet, and we do not foresee when it is to happen that we are to pocket so much as you speak of for our sweet commodity. To avoid, however, your making long faces, if we should have occasion to smile in this business, I have purchased almost $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of sugar for you as per bill of parcels inclosed, and hope you will approve of it. As to Moist Sugar I have sent you a box, which I took care to make a reserve of from my samples of last year's crop that I might have it ready to furnish you with so soon as you might have occasion for it, and I beg leave to observe that it is a very good quality, and not inferior to the best you can have from the shops at Highworth, although perhaps not of quite so bright a colour.

The shopkeepers, I am persuaded, have a method of improving the colour, but not the quality. Mr. Richard Jones has been so obliging as to pay me the amount of the sugar bill £2-12-3, which I have told him you would repay, with thanks. I did not join our Loyal Veterans on the fast day, the weather was so unfavourable and my clothes being quite new and so pretty.

I have been drilled twice and got on tolerably, but it is more tedious and fatiguing than I expected. By the time Mr. and Mrs. Clark come to town I expect to be complete in all the necessary tacticks, which require my attention. As the French invasion is so much talked of, I suppose your old women

begin to fear sadly that their lives and property are in danger. I beg leave, therefore to offer them the Old South-Sea House to fly to for refuge, with the assurance that I will protect them in it as long as any hope remains of keeping the audacious enemy out, and I think my aunt will assist in preparing red-hot balls for nephew Tom to shoot. Another loan is in contemplation, but G. J. seems not in such good spirits about it as heretofore, and I fancy will have nothing to do with it. T. R. is not likely to pocket cash through this channel as his predecessor did, but which is no loss, if 'twas not to have been better applied.

We are going to have our Compting House fresh done up, and I hope it will be quite complete before you call on us. If I should wish it, have you any objection to being a junior clerk in office, and my aunt any objection to accept the situation of housekeeper. This you can turn in your minds and bring your answer with you. I have not received later account from home than you have been made acquainted with.

Mr. Morris told me to say that Mr. Rutter's House was at your service on coming to town, but I see no occasion there is to trouble them. My apartments are large, and everybody about me quiet and civil. I am with due respect to you both

Your much obliged

and affectionate nephew

THOS. RUMNEY.

London, 15th March, 1797.

JOS. WARNER, ESQ.,
St. Vincent.

SIR,

In my last to you of the 7th December I told you I had not received my money, and that I could not tell whether your clerk could not or would not pay me. I am still kept out of it, notwithstanding having waited upwards of three years, which is surely using me extremely ill, and why you have treated me so much worse than others you have employed I do not know. Was it that I did not stand in absolute need of the money, I would have long since dropped my claim, in order to save the trouble and vexation of applying for it. As I am a poor man I think you ought to include the interest due upon it. If I do not find you inclined to pay either P. or I forthwith, I shall endeavour to get it by applying to your friends on this side the water.

I am, Sir, etc.,

THOS RUMNEY.

Forwarded per packet.

Old South-Sea House,
24th March, 1797.

CAPT. HUGHES or LIEUT. PEPYS, of North East Division.

SIR,

An engagement prior to the receipt of the letter you have favoured me with prevents my

having the pleasure of attending the meeting you have called this evening, respecting the object of which, I, however, beg leave to observe that I avow myself an advocate for the present uniform being continued, or that jackets with helmet caps be adopted in lieu thereof. But should the decision prove contrary to my wish I shall be perfectly reconciled.

I am, Sir, with every respect

Your obedient servt.

THOS. RUMNEY.

Old South-Sea House,

27th March, 1797.

MRS. KIRK,

I am prevented coming up to Hampstead this evening by an engagement with Mr. Richard Jones, and having a doubt I may be able to step up to-morrow, I have thought proper to send your muff etc by coach, and hope you will receive it safe. I have made out my bill which appears in your favour $1\frac{1}{2}$ guineas, from which I have deducted 9/- for tea and sugar. Then there remains a balance of £1 2s. 6d., and inclosed is a bank note value £1, which reduces it to 2/6, which I will pay either to you or Kitty the first opportunity. Having no hope at present of my being able to sleep at Hampstead on account of my late engagements, and as I shall have occasion for my clothes, I should be thankful if you would let Kitty pack them up and send them by the errand cart, when

it suits your convenience. With due respect and thanks for your kind attention to me on all occasions,

I remain, your much obliged humble
servt. and sincere well-wisher,

THOS. RUMNEY.

Thomas Rumney, Dr.

To Ann Kirk.

		£	s.	d.
1797				
Mar.	For 3 Dinners, Milk, Bread, and Beer		7	6
	6 Neck Handkfs., made, marked & washed		2	6
	Errand Cart per Clark		1	0
	Lodgings—one month		16	0
	For Mr. Carleton, for 2 Dinners etc		4	6
			1	11 6
Deduct balance of an Account for—				
			s.	d.
	Tea and Sugar		8	6
	4 Lemons		0	6
				9 0
			1	2 6
Mar. 27th	Sent her per coach in a parcel			
	this day Bank Note		1	0 0
		£	0	2 6

CHAPTER VIII

SPECULATION

Old South-Sea House,
28th March, 1797.

REV. MR. CLARK.

DEAR UNCLE,

If I should have occasion to borrow £500 to be applied to the relief of the exigencies of Government, can you and will you lend it me? Mr. Johnson told me this morning that he was disposed to interest me in the ensuing loan, if he should be successful as a competitor, but says he is very poor, and asked me if I could find a friend to advance the cash to make the first payment. I told him I thought I could, and took the liberty of mentioning your name, in consequence of which he requested I would write to you immediately and procure your answer. He has offered to put me down for £5000—10 % on which is £500—supposed to be the first payment. I have no money of my own disengaged at present, and I am very fearful it is your case also, but perhaps you can have recourse to some plan to assist me materially, and if you can't accomplish the whole, two-thirds or even one-third will be very acceptable, as I

have given Mr. Johnson to understand that I can do something handsome in it, and it would mortify me much not to be able to advance at least half, but rather than put you to real inconvenience I would submit to my consequence being curtailed in the eye of the great man. Charles never advanced one penny on such an event, but if Thomas could do it—from having been asked—it might ultimately do him good, and establish his credit more firmly.

It is my own idea that if I could scrape together about £300 Mr. Johnson would not hesitate to advance the remainder as heretofore. Perhaps Mr. Rutter could with convenience accommodate you with two or three hundreds for a couple of months through the channel of discounting bills, a common recourse to all tradesmen in these days. Have you no dividends to receive that are due at the Bank the 5th of next month on the 4 per cents. or 3 per cents. reduced? I shall certainly dispose of my loan before the second payment comes round, or as soon as it yields a decent profit. I can't give you any information as to the terms upon which this is to be negotiated, but Mr. Johnson seems in good spirits about it. If a loss should attend my share, Mr. Johnson would of course bear it, but after all we may be all shut out. I will thank you for an answer, if convenient, by return of post, and if agreeable to you, I will lay it before Mr. Johnson for his more perfect

satisfaction. Mr. Richard Jones will be with you, I fancy, in the course of a few days. Inclosed are two letters which he will be obliged to you to let your servant deliver immediately.

I hope my aunt has received the sugar safe and approves of it. With my kindest respects to her and yourself

I remain

Your affectionate nephew

THOS. RUMNEY.

Shall I ask Mr. Johnson for £5000 of the loan or more or less for your own self.

London, 30th March, 1797.

REV. MR. CLARK.

DEAR SIR,

I am exceedingly obliged to you for offering to comply with my request, but I am sorry that it carries with it the appearance of much inconvenience. I have called at Mr. Rutter's and they have promised to send me the Power of Attorney in time to send it by Mr. Richard Jones, who, I find, sets off at 4 o'clock this afternoon. He and his brother Charles are not upon friendly terms, and I fancy no satisfactory arrangement has taken place between themselves, nor respecting Charles's late imprudent conduct. William was bad, but Charles is worse. I hear of many of his professional friends prescribing remedies for him daily, but they seem to me not to understand his case. To talk to him in plain English and teach him the value of

money by keeping it from him, would be doing him some good, but it is not my business to interfere and I am very glad it happens not to be necessary. To have to please two masters is enough, and I am glad in being able to do it. I am very sorry to find I am not to be honoured with a visit from you and Mrs. Clark so soon as I expected, but I hope you have not determined to disappoint us entirely. The warm weather, I hope, will induce you to go abroad a little. I am sorry Doctor is so much of an invalid. I shall be glad to see Mr. Powell in town. 2 guineas is too much for the sugar.

Mr. Johnson is not in the City this morning, but I shall see him to-morrow and let him know what you say respecting the loan business, in which you seem not to wish to be concerned on your own account. I have just spoken to Mr. Bury about the Irish Short Annuity, which he tells me is now at $6\frac{3}{4}$ at $\frac{1}{2}$ years purchase and yields at 12 % interest 13 years not expired. Mr. Johnson has now £1000 per annum of it. If I can procure such a statement of it as you mention, I will furnish you with it. The whole term was for 15 years and commenced the 25th March, 1795, and it is made transferable at the Bank of England, but we must transfer the risk to the account of Patrick O'Connor and not to John Bull.

I have been drilled half a dozen times, and they have punished me about as much as if I had been obliged to walk half a dozen miles bare footed. They tell me, however, that I have a soldierlike appearance when in uniform and that pleases vastly.

As soon as the terms of the loan can be ascertained you shall hear from me if I should be interested in it. Mr. Johnson's list was not completed yesterday, but I fancy it is to-day. I will thank you to assist me in bringing about a Peace as soon as I have got a slice of the loan. Our joint exertions in Prayer and Fighting may have a wonderful effect upon both our Foreign and Domestic enemies.

With best respects to my aunt

I remain

Your dutiful and affectionate nephew

THOS. RUMNEY.

I have taken up the Power of Attorney at the Bank myself and paid 8/6 for it.

London, 6th April, 1797.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

SIR,

Mr. G. Hill favoured me with a call the day before yesterday, but I was so much engaged as not to be able to speak to him, but having left his address and your letter I waited on him in Downing Street the same evening. I received of him three pounds on your account, which I assure you was very acceptable and I thank you for it, and when it is quite convenient to send me the remaining £5 I shall also be glad to see it, for I want to square my cash account exceedingly. I am sure I could be very happy in spending a few weeks in the quarter you

mention if business would permit, but I am now in consequence of Charles's retirement quite riveted to the desk and have no prospect at present of getting leave to ramble out further than the extent of the bills of mortality. The recreation you kindly invite me to would be of essential benefit to me in point of health, and quite a cordial to my spirits, which I thank God are, however, generally pretty good.

Yes Sir, I have heard of Doctor Marsh's indisposition, and I understand the idea abroad is that he is not likely to survive long. Mr. Powell is to be in town the beginning of the week, and I will endeavour to learn more about it, and also how matters stand at Highworth respecting Edward and Jane, and some other interesting matters, but I am so busy in office that I have not so much time to devote to those matters as I could wish. About three weeks ago Mr. Clark informed me that he and Mrs. C. intended coming to town for a day or two at the beginning of May, and asked if I could accommodate them under my roof. I answered yes, with perfect convenience and pleasure, but they have already dropped the scheme, and say ill health is the cause of it. Doctor Marsh was to have been of the party I fancy. Ned's property in the Bank has lately suffered a very considerable diminution, but he writes in tolerable spirits. As you request it I will certainly write to Mr. Richard Jones in a day or two. He has been in town a whole fortnight, and only returned last week. He came up to endeavour to put his brother Charles to

rights, but has not been so fortunate as to do any material good. Poor Charles is shamefully irregular and extravagant and seems determined to fool away all the money he can lay hold of, and shame and disgrace must fall on him for it. Mr. Richard Jones did say something to me concerning the business you mention, and I think in favour of what you seem to wish, but I paid little attention to him as I did not know you had entered into the subject of it so deeply as seems to be the case. He told me that Mr. Worgan was likely to leave Highworth soon from having secured a better thing, and Dicky certainly suggested to me that there might be at least a chance if not a probability of your succeeding to something good in or about Highworth. If my activity will be of any use to you in jumping about in this affair, I am freely at your service, but you must caution me if you conceive me likely to be too officious or at all indelicate. Is Mr. Clark not to be advised with? Your old acquaintance, Mr. Free, I think Dick said has some pretensions to be noticed at Highworth, but that many of the inhabitants were prejudiced against him. Perhaps from this sketch of information you may think proper to write to Mr. Clark for particulars. Friend Gabriel offered to frank your letter if I would send it per p.p. to Downing Street which I shall do. All well at Mellfell a month since but no news of consequence.

I remain

Your affectionate Brother

THOS. RUMNEY.

London, 8th April, 1797.

MR. RICHARD JONES.

DEAR SIR,

At the particular request of my brother William I am under the necessity of troubling you with a few lines respecting the preferment of the Black Cloth. I received a letter from him the other day in which he says—"When you write to Mr. Jones at Highworth which I hope you will do soon, on my account, I beg you to make strict enquiry about the curacy of Bushet, whether it is likely to become vacant? Mr. Jones knows the Incumbent and also the Curate, the earliest information will be very acceptable. My new vicar and I cannot agree about accommodations. I shall retain my situation until I can suit myself with a better. I could likewise wish to know something about Wanborough curacy if convenient."

This is all he observes to me upon the subject, and if you will have the goodness to pay the attention to it he seems to require, I should on my own account be much obliged to you, and I flatter myself you would find him equally so and very thankful. You were so good as to mention something respecting this business to me when you came to town, and I believe recommended my transmitting some part of it to my brother by letter, but I am ashamed to acknowledge I have been so inattentive as neither to recollect the particulars of what you told me to write to him upon the subject at all. I am sorry I am not

acquainted with what footing of intimacy you are upon with Bill, but I hope it is not so distant as to make it unpleasant for you to write him a few lines per post in answer to his enquiries, and if you would take the trouble of doing it, I should be thankful to you. He does not say one word to me about consulting with Mr. Clark in this affair, but if he meets with any encouragement, I daresay he will be very active. His address is Overbury, near Tewksbury, Gloucestershire.

Mr. Bury has requested I would inform you that he has received a letter from Mr. Powell, which is of no effect for the purpose intended—that nothing official will do—and that the Doctor himself must undertake to do the needful. Mr. B. mentions a remark being made in the Stock Book, which I recollect you are acquainted with. Mr. Powell, I understand, is to be in town on Monday.

I called on Mrs. Goodson this morning to know if she had any commands to you. She sends her best respects and told me to say that the two bills of £40 each, made payable at her house by your brother Charles, had been taken up.

Mr. Johnson has wrote to your brother Edward and informed him of your brother Charles's recent proceedings and of your having been in Town etc. on the occasion. I asked Mr. Johnson yesterday if he had anything to say to you, and he said I might let you know he had wrote to your brother E. respecting Charles.

Mr. Johnson does not come forward as a principal

in contracting for the Loan, and has been obliged to curtail his allowance to his friends very materially. I will thank you to present my best respects to your mother, sister J., and Miss M. Curtis.

I am, dear Sir,

Your obedient humble servant

THOMAS RUMNEY.

London, 8th April, 1797.

REV. MR. CLARK.

DEAR UNCLE,

In consequence of a misunderstanding between Mr. Johnson and Mr. Boyd, the Loan Contractor, and which was not discovered before yesterday, I am completely docked in my share of the Loan. £1500 is now allotted to me and Mr. Johnson has just told me to get £150 ready to make the first payment, which is supposed will be required to be made about this day week. The bargain is not yet effected, but will I fancy on Monday. I am astonished that Mr. Johnson has not offered to make this small advance of cash for me rather than trouble you from his allowance being so materially curtailed. I confess I am ashamed to accept of your assistance, but I cannot refuse to accept the sum he has offered me, small as it is, and I do not like to tell him it is painful to me to put you to more trouble and inconvenience than any advantage that seems attached to it will repay. I should be, I think more easy in my mind if I was not concerned

in it at all. I should be much better satisfied to have my salary advanced to something handsome than to have to look to those casual matters as a gratuity compliment. It is observed that bad servants make bad masters, and I am afraid of finding it too true. I fancy Mr. Johnson both sees himself and is told by many, that if Charles had had less advantages in office, he would have been less imprudent, and consequently a moderate encouragement only should be granted to his successor. This I must submit to for the present, but I am too sensible of my real use and feel the quality of *Rum* too strong in my breast to sink below mediocrity. I am an advocate for justice and moderation in all things, and hope you will always see it proved in my future conduct. I cannot expect to be ever more capable of exerting myself than I am at my present time of life, and it behoves me to embrace the opportunity, and I am blessed with a tolerable state of health I think I am now likely to turn out a favourable speculation to my mother's brother Ned.

I beg leave to make you an offer of my loan concern. I shall be satisfied with a moderate profit if you will undertake to make the payments and speculate at your own risk. I am told the whole of it must be paid up in the course of the present year. I will at any rate thank you for your opinion of the management of it. I hear many preachers in the Alley, but do not think they all preach the Gospel.

My brother William does not seem quite satisfied

with his present situation. One—more nearly related to Highworth would be more acceptable, I fancy.

I beg my best respects to my aunt, and remain
Your much obliged and affectionate nephew

THOMAS RUMNEY

The Box and Hamper came safe to hand two days ago.

London, 11th April, 1797.

MR. RICHARD JONES.

DEAR SIR,

I return you my best thanks for your promised attention in behalf of my brother William, and hope something to his benefit may transpire from it, but give me leave to observe that I am far from wishing that you should put yourself to inconvenience concerning it. I am sorry to find Mr. Powell is so much indisposed, but hope he will be well enough to undertake the journey to town in a few days. I have not found Mr. Bury at leisure to speak to him particularly respecting the state of your brother Charles's affairs, neither do I know that he may feel himself disposed to communicate particulars to me freely, but before I close my letter I will ask him a general question or two for your satisfaction. The two bills amounting to £80 were taken up by Charles himself, and between you and I, I fancy he sold out £250 of his stock to enable him to accomplish it. The stock was not sold by Bury but old Brown whom I

daresay you know very well. This is all I know about your brother at present. I have presented your thanks etc. to Mr. Johnson for his attention in writing to your brother Edward respecting Charles's disorderly proceedings, and have also spoke to him respecting the loan business, which I am sorry to find there has not been a more clear understanding about, for Mr. Johnson now says that he had put it upon a certain footing with Mr. Bury and yourself and that you were to have furnished him with an answer, but not having done it he had arranged his whole concern in the business without including you in the list. Such, however, have been the occurrences within this day or two, that he says 'tis very probable that he himself will not become interested in it. Stocks got up (I mean 3 % Consols) 5 % yesterday—from the idea of a general peace being revived in consequence of a most complete and extraordinary defeat the Archduke Charles has met with (a detail of which you will see in your paper), and the report of Mr. Hammond being gone immediately from our Court to Vienna upon business of the first importance. These matters having transpired, report says Mr. Pitt has put off the settlement of the loan till next week. Such is the manner in which Mr. Johnson has laid his carving knife into the piece of the loan, promised me, that if I were better than a poor clerk in office—I could not nor would not think of accepting the what remains.

I am quite sorry you paid the postage of your letter to me. We must drop such particularity, if you please, and I beg leave to set the example. I hope you had a good market for your hay etc. and should have been glad if we could have found a good one here for the nett proceeds.

I am very glad to hear that your mother and sister are quite well, and wish Miss Curtis better. The man that furnished you with the paper says that he is not sensible of having been inattentive in forwarding it, which I endeavoured all I could to make him believe. I begged him to keep his eyes open in future and persuaded him I was interested in the concern myself, and that my friends were old customers to him.

Mrs. Goodson and family are well, and beg a return of compliments respectfully. Your two nieces, Miss F. and S. have been at Mrs. Goodson's a few days, but return to Edmonton, I fancy, again to-day.

I have just spoke to Mr. Bury. He says he is not acquainted with anything fresh respecting your brother Charles, and appears ; to me somewhat reserved. Consols were as high as 55 yesterday ; to-day they left off at 52. I beg leave to offer you my best services here, and to say that I shall at all times be glad to hear from you, and with best respects to your family,

I remain your very obedient servant

THOS RUMNEY.

London, 11th April, 1797.

MR. JAMES RICHARDSON,

[Heads of a letter to him.]

Thanks for intention of sending biscuits—
Acknowledged receipt of a few lines from him—
Congratulated him upon the luck of last cruise
—Told him of having seen Mr. Knight of Bank—
Sorry for the affliction of rheumatism.

That hopes of a general peace was revived,
consols 5% higher—Archduke Charles's complete
defeat—Observed his spirits lower than usual—
Charles Jones's imprudence—Miss Neal's also—
Mrs. Leak's miscarriage—Mr. Crawford's and Miss
Skinner's derangement of mind—that I was a
member of the Artillery Company—attended their
Ball at the London etc

London, 13th April, 1797.

ANTHONY RUMNEY.

[Heads of a letter to him of this date.]

Acknowledged his letter of the 20th Feb.—
Supposed he might think I was long in doing it.—
Told him business had prevented my writing
sooner—told him of having no prospect of ever
seeing my native home again.—That my brother
Wm. had not been punctual in paying me at Lady
Day—but paid £3 in part—that he had requested
my making some enquiries about curacies near
Highworth—supposed I should be interested in
the loan—Mr. Clark to lend me a little money for
that purpose for a few days—that I had entered

into the Artillery Company—and had attended the Annual Ball at the London Tavern—like a Frenchman in regimentals.

Promised to send half a dozen Tea Spoons and Tongs and Kearsley's Tax Tables—that Mr. Crawford and Miss Skinner were deranged in their mental faculties—Richardson at Sheerness—Todhunter still in the K.B. [King's Bench prison.]

[Copies of letters received from Mr. Morris at Mr. Rutter's this morning in consequence of having heard of Mr. Clark's death.]

Highworth, 31st March, 1797.

TO MR. RUTTER FROM
MR. CLARK.

Dear Sir, Be so good as to sell 5000 3 per cents. Let Mr. Thomas Rumney have what he wants, buy 4 per cents. with the remainder as soon as they open, paying $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. brokerage. Have you got rid of the Cirencester note I sent you? If not, please to send or bring it back that it may be demanded at the said Bank. I cannot bear the journey to town.

Your humble servt.

ED. CLARK.

Highworth, 15th April, 1797.

FROM D^o TO D^o.

DEAR SIR,

I have been and am now very ill with

Influenza. I sold the Stock with a view of accommodating Mr. Rumney to make his first deposit of £5000 New Loan, but his share was reduced to 1500 and the whole is postponed *sine die*. If you can catch an opportunity of buying three per cents. under 50 I wish to embrace the first to the extent of the cash. Mr. Powell, or Mr. Rumney for him, will pay you £30. If the Loan comes on again I will assist in raising Mr. Rumney's share. Dr. Marsh and I are very infirm indeed. They are much alarmed about Mr. Charles Jones who is become the most dissolute wretch, and who has a power to sell 500 or 700 5 per cents. Mrs. C. joins in most respectful compliments with

ED. CLARK.

CHAPTER IX

DEATH IN SOUTH AND NORTH

LETTER from Mr. Richard Marsh to Mr. Morris
at Mr. Rutter's.

Highworth, 17th April, 1797.

SIR,

I am sorry to inform you that our late worthy vicar, the Revd. Mr. Clark, died last night after an illness of a few days. By his last will he has appointed my aunt, Jane Clark, his sole Executrix, and therefore I am requested by her to say that she wishes you to make the purchase that the late Mr. Clark had recommended you to make in her name.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient humble servt.,

RICHARD MARSH.

Heads of sundry letters wrote this day, 18th
April, 1797.

Highworth, Wilts.

TO MRS. CLARK.

Condolence on Mr. Clark's death—offer of my
services to her—my wish to be with her for a

few days and to attend the funeral—Mr. Johnson objecting to it on my applying to him—my compliance with her request in giving information to all Mr. Clark's relations of his death—my request that she would deliver the two inclosed letters to Mr. Marsh and Mr. Jones. Etc., etc.

TO MR. RICHARD MARSH.

Thanks for his information of Mr. C.'s death—done at the request of Mrs. Clark—my willingness to come down, but Mr. Johnson refused it. Compliments, etc., to the family.

TO MR. RICHARD JONES.

Thanks for writing to give information of Mr. Clark's death—and for his offer of accommodation with bed, etc., if I went down—that I had wrote to my brother William who I supposed would come to Highworth on this occasion, and that matters respecting curacies, etc., might be discussed over between them. Thanks for his attention to it, etc.

TO THE REV. W. RUMNEY.

Mentioned uncle's death—asked him to go to Highworth, and that I could not, Mr. Johnson having refused me. Mrs. C. executrix, etc.

TO MRS. MARY RUMNEY.

Informed her of her brother's death—my condolence—that she would inform relations about home, etc.

London, 19th April, 1797.

MRS. ANTHONY THOMPSON,

Whitely Wood, Near Sheffield, Yorkshire.

DEAR COUSIN,

Never having had the pleasure of knowing you personally or being at all acquainted with you, from any circumstance that has hitherto occurred in life, I feel a peculiar degree of awkwardness in addressing you at this time and the urgent cause that induces me to do it makes it more so, and which I am sorry to say is of the most melancholy nature.

Yesterday morning I received different letters from Highworth giving me an account of the death of poor Mr. Clark, our worthy uncle, who died Sunday evening the 16th inst., after a very short but severe illness of a few days only.

Poor man, he had suffered much by ill health for some years past, but for about 12 months last past thought himself materially better, and I observed his spirits to be improved also, but I am informed his constitution was very weak notwithstanding.

He was seized with a violent cold attended with fever (which has been quite general out Highworth way) about a week ago, and got worse daily and went off at last from the breaking of a blood vessel and I am told without a struggle. I have I assure you, madam, both to lament and regret his being called away, for he had always conducted himself in a very friendly manner towards me, and altho' I never received any

material pecuniary benefit from him, he gave me his wholesome advice and instructions which was perhaps better—to speak the truth I both lov'd and fear'd him.

How he has settled his affairs by will I am at present quite ignorant. Mrs. Clark, I find, is appointed sole executrix.

I wished much to have gone down to have attended the funeral, but I am so circumstanced in office as not to have it in my power.

Mrs. Clark has requested I would undertake to give all her late husband's relations information of the mournful event, and has mentioned your name particularly, and I would have wrote yesterday, but what with Compt. House business, hurry, confusion and grief I really could not do it, and I trust you will think so. I am sorry I do not know your place of residence more perfectly, but I hope my letter will reach you without much time being lost. I hope Mr. Thompson and all your family and my other relations in and about Sheffield are quite well and to whom I should be thankful to be remembered or made known to with my kind respects when opportunity suits, and if you would do me the favour to acknowledge the receipt of this at your leisure, I should be much obliged to you. I very sincerely condole with you and all our relations on this mournful event, and am, Madam,

Your affectionate cousin, and

obedient humble servt.,

THOMAS RUMNEY.

I will esteem it a favour if you will have the goodness to make this melancholy event known to such of our relations that reside in or near Sheffield as you may think proper. I have wrote to my mother and cousins at Penrith.

19th April, 1797.

TO SARAH HODGSON.

Mentioned Mr. Clark's death—supposed her brother Samuel was displeased with me, as he had not acknowledged the receipt of the last letter I wrote him—desired she would mention the melancholy news to her brothers and sisters.

21st April, 1797.

TO JAMES RICHARDSON.

Mentioned Mr. Clark's death—my loss sustained in imagination by it—my readiness to attend to his brother's commissions about the soldiers—requested to hear from him before he put to sea again. The seamen's petition to the Lords of the Admiralty for an advance of wages—compliments from friends, etc.

20th April, 1797.

ANTHONY RUMNEY.

Told him of having wrote on 18th inst. to mention Mr. Clark's death to my mother, Mrs. Thompson of Sheffield, my brother William and Mrs. Clark, and returned answers to Mr. Richard Marsh and Mr. R. Jones, and had also wrote to Sarah

Hodgson, Penrith, and requested he would make the matter known to my sisters and all relations in the north, and begged of him to write to me immediately to let me know how my mother was—told him Mrs. Clark was sole executrix—that I could not go to Highworth as Mr. Johnson refused, and I had recommended my brother William to go there—that I had received a letter from brother William this morning and that he had not been wrote to from Highworth, respecting the death of Mr. Clark—that he intended setting off this morning—that Mrs. Clark was inclined to assist me in the way Mr. Clark intended, etc.

London, 22nd April, 1797.

MRS. CLARK.

MY DEAR AUNT,

I hope this will find you as well as can be expected under present circumstances. My taking the liberty of troubling you so soon again is to return you my sincere thanks for your kindness in obliging me with the money my poor uncle intended to have assisted me with to make my first payment on the new loan. Mr. Powell favoured me with a call at the Compting House this morning and informed me you had given directions to Mr. Morris to this effect. The sum is £150 which I shall, I fancy, take up on Monday next, and will give a proper receipt for it in your own name, and you may be assured I will return

it as soon as I have an opportunity and I will inform you of my proceedings respecting it according to the occurrence of events.

I received a letter from my brother William this morning and from supposing him to be now at Highworth I beg leave to inclose a letter for him, which I will thank you to give him or forward to Overbury if he's returned. I again beg leave to repeat that I am very ready to be of use to you here in any respect as far as I have it in my power, and should have real pleasure in attending to your commands. Believe me, aunt, I feel the disappointment of not being able to come down to you for a few days and be at the interment of my worthy uncle and most dear friend, much, and I shall not soon forget Mr. Johnson's manner of refusing to grant me leave.

But this is not a time for me to trouble you with many remarks. With my best respects to all enquiring friends,

I remain,

Your dutiful nephew and
affectionate humble servt.,

THOS. RUMNEY.

London, 22nd April, 1797.

To REVD. W. RUMNEY at Highworth.

Suppose you're at Highworth—Postage to Mrs. Clark due 6*d.* letter being inclosed—hope better of the accident—of lame leg.

Request a sketch of Mr. Clark's will—that I shall be glad to hear of our relations being benefited—that my expectations are moderate, if 500—50—or only an odd £5 shall be much obliged and satisfied—if shares bequeathed in Stock—what Stock—if value of it fixed or taken at the time of his death or 12 months when Legacies become due.

Worgan's application for the living of Highworth—my wish that he had had an opportunity equal to him—request a few lines by return of post to know how Marsh is etc.—Mrs. C. obliging me with £150—the wish of Mr. Clark before he died.

Invitation to come to see me on this occasion—my promise to pay part of travelling expenses—my being quite fatigued with letter writing etc.

London, 25th April, 1797.

REV. MR. RUMNEY at MRS. CLARK'S, Highworth.

Disappointed much in not hearing from you yesterday—my uncle's evident intention to serve me in the loan as far as £500—Mr. Powell seems friendly towards me—wish to know if you can come to London, if not to give me the particulars of the will—If Mrs. Clark wants a fresh Attorney in Town—I have offered my services—per Powell recommended mild and civil behaviour to all parties on his part.

London, 26th April, 1797.

REV. WM. RUMNEY at MR. JONES'S, Highworth.

Expressed satisfaction at the arrangement Mr. Clark has made in bequeathing 3900 4 per cent. Stock to his own relations—wished him to come to London for my satisfaction—asked if he wished me to undertake to inform relations in the north respecting the will of the deceased—or if he would do it—or if we had better wait till the will was proved, and I had procured a copy of it which I intended doing—trusted there was no real danger of my being imposed upon by any designing person at Highworth—recommended his having an interview with Mr. Powell—that Mr. Jones need not be sorry in not being concerned in the loan—it being already at par—that I hoped to succeed in taking up the £200 at Mr. Rutter's in the morning—Consols at £48—a good opportunity for Mrs. Clark to invest the money in Mr. Rutter's hands, if able to effect it. Complts. generally.

London, 27th April, 1797.

THOMAS POWELL, ESQ.

DEAR SIR,

Mr. Morris seems much hurt at what you have intimated in your letter to him respecting my concern in the loan—I signed a few remarks he has drawn up to Mrs. Clark in justification of his conduct in the business—I was induced so to do to save Mrs. Clark from being drawn into trouble etc.

Busy in the extreme from Mr. Johnson collecting money of the Subscribers in his list to the Loan of between 30 and 40 thousand pounds—had rather take some blame to myself in Rutter's affair than Mrs. Clark should find it unpleasant to correspond with his house in future. My willingness to serve my aunt and friends at Highworth. My sister Eliz.'s death. Compls. to Mrs. Powell etc.

Sorry for his having taken the trouble to pay postage.

London, 27th April, 1797.

MRS. CLARK.

DEAR AUNT,

Acknowledged having taken up the £200 to make the first payment on my £2000 new loan—thanks to her for having indulged me with it—promised to return it as soon as a favourable opportunity occurred of disposing of said loan—mentioned the affair of Mr. Rutter's clerk as observed to Mr. Powell in the above sketch. My sister Elizabeth's sudden death. The wish I had to see my brother William if he could do it with convenience to himself—that I had wrote to Mr. Powell who I hoped would have the further goodness to assist in settling the apparent disturbance between Mr. Morris and her—my distress at the additional melancholy event of poor sister E. My readiness to serve her on all occasions and friends at Highworth—Compts. to friends etc.

London, 27th April, 1797.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

DEAR BROTHER,

Tidings this morning's post from brother Anthony of poor sister Elizabeth's sudden death at Wigton—supposed it to have happened after poor uncle's death—presumed therefore that the legacy he was so kind as to bequeath to her would be forthcoming to our family—hoped he would come to Town to me if at all convenient for my satisfaction.

That Mr. Morris had written to Mrs. Clark himself about the money belonging to her in Mr. Rutter's hands. My extreme hurry in office—my own letter writing etc.

Old South-Sea House, 29th April, 1797.

MR. CHAS. JONES.

DEAR SIR,

I beg leave to inclose you a letter received this morning per packet.

Your nephew, Mr. Gale, called on me the other day with a message, and I hope you will excuse my not having replied to it sooner. I am informed by my brother William that my poor uncle has bequeathed to his own relations £3900 4% Stock, viz.—to my mother £200—to thirteen nephews and nieces each £200—to a niece's

daughter £100—and to myself £1000. Mrs. Clark is sole Executrix and Residuary Legatee. Since I heard of Mr. Clark's death I have had an account of the same fate having happened to my youngest sister, which affects me much.

I am, dear Sir,

Your much obliged and obedient servt.,
THOS. RUMNEY.

London, 29th April, 1797.

MR. ANTHONY RUMNEY.

Shocked at the news of my sister's death—my being pleased with his conduct on the occasion in which he exerted himself so much—our uncle's age 62—that he was buried on the 24th in Dr. Marsh's vault—expected my brother William in Town to see me at my request—Mrs. Clark sole executrix and residuary legatee—furnished him with a list of names to whom Mr. Clark had bequeathed legacies, and how much to each, amounting in all to £3900 4% Stock—that I thought it handsome, impartial etc. and hoped all parties would be satisfied.

That it appeared the legacy left to sister would be forthcoming to our family from her uncle having died first.

Requested to know what sister died worth—recommended its being equally proportioned to brothers and sisters to prevent discontent.

London, 1st May, 1797.

MRS. SARAH HODGSON,
Penrith.

Acknowledged receipt of her letter of this morning, dated 27th ult.—thanks for her information respecting sister Elizabeth—much affected at the loss of my relations. Could not speak for certain respecting Mr. Clark's will—Mentioned £200 4% S^k being left to her, her brother and sisters, my mother, and my brothers and sisters—relations at Sheffield left in like impartial manner—that I mean to have a copy of said will when proved at the Commons—my respects to her husband and family—that my brother William was coming to see me.

CHAPTER X

LEGACIES

London, 11th May, 1797.

MRS. CLARK,

Highworth, Wilts.

DEAR AUNT,

I am inclin'd to suppose you are anxious to hear from me, altho' I have not been favoured with a reply, from yourself, to any of my late letters. My brother William has been with me a week and returns to Overbury to-morrow. I was sorry to understand by him that the letter you received from Mr. Morris (in which I had been induced to subscribe to some remarks he thought proper to make) gave you so much uneasiness and that you seemed not to approve of my conduct in that business. Mr. Powell, I am afraid, was also a little surprised at it. I am quite sorry you did not comprehend my motives better, but I am willing to excuse you on that head, for such was the confused and troubled state of my mind at the time I wrote to you, that it is very probable I was not sufficiently explicit.

Had I refused to comply with Mr. Morris's request (which I leave to Mr. Powell to determine whether it was an indelicate one or not) all the parties must have been involved in the concern to a more unpleasant degree, and Mr. Morris and you would have perhaps been the greatest sufferers ultimately. I find you had recommended my brother to call to speak upon the subject at Mr. Rutter's, but I have taken the liberty with you of telling him I disapprove of it, and I was the more inclined to do it from finding it was your full intention to continue your correspondence as usual with that House. I presume you have drawn the balance out of Mr. Rutter's hands due to you and made a purchase of Stock with it, and I hope to find you have been lucky in so doing. Mr. Johnson has asked me a second time if I could find the money to make the second payment on my Loan, and recommended my doing it, if a tempting profit did not offer before it came round. I answered him in doubt and I am yet undetermined, but have concluded not to be troublesome to you for further assistance. The salary I have due with the help of a friend at home will enable me to accomplish it, should I be advised by Mr. Johnson to adopt the scheme. I assure you I am very anxious to return you the money you have obliged me with, and signified to Mr. Johnson yesterday (who is perfectly acquainted with the situation I stand in) that I was disposed to take the small profit it would then fetch, but he said he really

could not recommend my doing it. I therefore wait for a more favourable opportunity, and which I hope will soon occur. If you have anything to observe respecting this matter, I shall be very glad to hear from you, and will pay immediate attention to it, and believe me I shall always be glad in rendering you any services, and conducting myself towards you in the same respectful manner I have all along been accustomed to.

My brother William informs me that you have kindly shared some linen etc. between him and me, for which I beg leave to offer you my best thanks, but the idea of receiving a present of the kind affects me more than I feel myself at liberty to express.

I will thank you to present my best respects to Mr. Powell, and tell him I lodged the Power of Attorney in the 5 per cent. office the day after he left London. My brother joins me in best respects to you, Doctor Marsh and his family, and Mr. and Mrs. Powell, and I remain, my dear Aunt,

Your dutiful nephew and
much obliged humble servt.,
THOS. RUMNEY.

P.S.—I have received a letter from Mrs. Thompson at Sheffield acknowledging the receipt of mine, but she does not mention having wrote to you respecting it.

London, 13th May, 1797.

MRS. SABRA THOMPSON,
Whitely Wood, Nr. Sheffield.

DEAR COUSIN,

I was favoured with your letter of the 3rd inst. a few days ago, and was glad to find mine to you had not met with any delay in reaching you. Having now taken out a copy of our late uncle's will at the Commons, and finding you to be interested in it, I beg leave to acquaint you therewith, as I am not sure that there is any other friend to give it you officially. The amount poor Mr. Clark has bequeathed to yourself is £200 4 % S^k in the Bank of England and to you also in Trust for the use of the children of your late sister Barbara Birks the same sum in the same stock.

It appears to me that our late worthy uncle has acted very handsomely towards his relations, and I hope they will all be sensible of it and thankful. For your information and satisfaction I have drawn out a list of all the legacies mentioned in the will which is on the other side. It gives me much concern to inform you of further melancholy news in our family, viz. the death of my youngest sister Elizabeth, which happened 5 days only after that of her uncle—poor thing, she never enjoyed a good state of health and a rapid consumption carried her off in the course of a very short time.

List of Legacies left to Sundries by the Rev.

Edw. Clark, Wilts, who died 16th April, 1797,
viz.—

To Mary Rumney, his sister	...	...	£200	4% Stock
Anthony Rumney, his nephew	...	...	200	,,
William Rumney, his ditto	...	...	200	,,
Thomas Rumney, his ditto	...	...	1000	,,
Barbara Rumney m/n his niece	...	...	200	,,
Anne Rumney m/n, his niece	...	...	200	,,
Elizabeth Rumney, his ditto	...	...	200	,,
Sabra Thompson, his ditto	...	...	200	,,
To ditto in Trust on acct. of Barbara Birks				
his ditto	...	...	200	,,
Samuel Clark, his nephew	...	...	200	,,
Thomas Clark, his ditto	...	...	200	,,
Sarah Clark his niece	...	...	200	,,
Barbara Clark, his ditto	...	...	200	,,
Ann Clark, his ditto	...	...	200	,,
Mary Clark, daughter of the late James Clark	...	...	100	,,
To ditto in Trust for the use of her mother and family	...	...	200	,,
In all say	...	...	£3900	

You will please to notice that the whole is in the 4%, which I beg leave to observe ought to be particularly attended to on the day the legacies fall due, say the 17th April next, when each will have to claim their Stock or as much cash according to the value of said Stock on that day. I think I mentioned to you in my last that Mrs. Clark was appointed by his last will, sole Executrix, which is the case, but I understand that in a former one he had appointed myself and a friend in London his Exors.

Mrs. Clark is also Residuary Legatee. I have taken upon me, although unsolicited, to give all our

family information of their interest in our late uncle's will from an idea that they might not have heard of it officially from any other quarter. I thank you and my friends around you for your kind invitation to call on you should I pay a visit to my friends in Cumberland. If I could be spared from my office I should be exceedingly glad to pay my respects to you and friends generally, but at present the prospect is not even in view, altho' I have been absent from my native home nearly 14 years. I beg leave to offer you and yours my best respects and services here, and remain,

Your affectionate cousin,

THOS RUMNEY.

London, 15th May, 1797.

MRS. CLARK.

'DEAR AUNT,

I now beg leave to inform you that I have sold my loan, although contrary to the recommendation of Mr. Johnson, who has been out of town since I wrote to you the other day, and I daresay will be surprised to hear of my sudden determination, as he repeatedly recommended my making the second payment upon it, and which I could have accomplished without your further assistance, but had I even done so there would still have remained the unpleasant idea of my being subject to be thought capable of retaining your money an unreasonable time, which I beg to be understood is

completely done away by my having disposed of the whole of my share in the concern before the Government receipts for it are issued at the Bank, but I hope, and have every reason to expect, that they will be delivered in the course of this week and I have thought it right to give you the information that you may suffer neither inconvenience nor disappointment from having done me the kindness to lend me the money. I hope you understand me perfectly—that the deposit money of 10% could not be received back on the loan being sold (since it was contracted for) before the coming out of the receipts. I will thank you to give me immediate instructions about the £200, that no time may be lost in the application of it in these critical times. If you wish me to return it into Mr. Rutter's hands again, I will do so, or if to save him trouble you had rather have me employ Mr. Johnson or any other broker to invest it in any particular Stock you may have made a late purchase in, it shall be done.

Mr. Johnson encouraged me to expect a profit of at least 5%, but I have submitted for certain reasons to take just half that, and from another regulation which has reduced the sum total, my nett gain will not amount to more than £44, which, however, will do me good. And I think of purchasing 100 3% Consols by adding a few pounds to it, and which I daresay you will approve of.

On Saturday I received a bundle containing 7 shirts, 2 pairs of stockings and 11 pairs of socks,

and a greatcoat which I suppose are intended for me, and if I am right in that idea I return you my best thanks for them, and assure you they are very acceptable. They will tend rather too much to keep my feelings awake respecting the loss of the former wearer, and which idea I had suggested in my last letter to you, but since they are come to hand I will endeavour to become reconciled. In the bundle I found a small parcel directed for your nephew at the Veterinary College, where I call'd with it yesterday, and very luckily found him at home. He seem'd in good health and spirits, and desired his best respects to you and friends at Highworth. He tells me he expects to get released from the College in the course of next month. I saw Mr. Charles Jones in the city the other day, who seemed in good health and high spirits, and desired me to present his best respects to you when I might write.

I am sorry Mr. Trevanion is not in the way to indulge me with a frank for you.

I will thank you to present my best respects to Mr. and Mrs. Powell and Dr. Marsh and family.

I remain, dear Aunt

Your dutiful and affectionate nephew

THOMAS RUMNEY.

London, 20th May, 1797.

MRS. CLARK,
Highworth.

I have received a few lines from Mr. Richard

Marsh this morning directing me to pay the £200 into Mr. Rutter's hands with a message from you which has been complied with. Feeling convinced of having given you the most candid information of my conduct in this transaction, I have nothing more to observe upon it at present, but to repeat my thanks to you for the use of the money.

I am ashamed to hear of my relations not being more particular in paying attention to you. Any letters for them in the North directed to the care of my brother A. at the Swan Inn, Penrith, Cumberland, will be attended to by him, and Mrs. Thompson's address is Whitely Wood, near Sheffield, Yorkshire. I hope you find yourself composed and in tolerable health and spirits.

Having repeated my offer of rendering you any services in my power

I remain

Your dutiful nephew and much
obliged humble servt.

T. R.

London, 20th May, 1797.

MR. SAM'L. CLARK.

DEAR COUSIN,

In consequence of the death of your uncle, the Rev. Edward Clark of Highworth, Wilts, I find myself called upon, out of respect to you as well as to Mrs. Clark, to inform you that your uncle has bequeathed to you by his last will (a copy of which

I have in my possession) £200—4% Stock in the Bank of England. Your brother and sisters are interested in the same manner. Your uncle died on the 16th of last month, and your aunt is appointed Sole Executrix and Residuary Legatee.

I am

Your affectionate Cousin,

THOS RUMNEY.

One similar wrote to

Thomas Clark, his brother, same date.
To Sarah Hodgson, his sister
To Barbara Clark, his do
To Ann Clark, his do
To Mrs. James Clark of Penrith.

London, 22nd May, 1797.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

(Summary.)

Entertained with your jokes—the Bonnet for Miss Holyoak cost 1 guinea, sent off to-day; Mary Mason's present of pen and watch paper put in box with it, and 1/- worth of biscuits. Have heard from brother A. who is short and inexplicit, and grumbles at my legacy being so much more than the rest. I had sold my loan for 44 profit.

London, 20th May, 1797.

MR. A. RUMNEY,

In much haste I undertake to write you a few lines. Inclosed are sundry letters which pray

oblige me in delivering. I have thought it proper for the satisfaction of all my relations interested in our uncle's will, to give them official information of it under my own hand, having as I have observed to them procured a copy of the will at my own expense from the Commons. I have luckily got a frank of one of my employers to convey the inclosed, and I expect to procure one for this day week to send letters to your sisters, mother and yourself. My sisters' letters are not prepared or you should have had the whole sent to-day. I am really quite harassed, partly with this sort of matter, my regular Compting House duty, and the Loan business. Mr. Johnson and I have been fully employed both yesterday and to-day subscribing our names to the Government Receipts for upwards of seven hundred thousand of it which is shared to Mr. Johnson and his friends. I have sold my share which will yield me about 40 guineas. It is impossible for me to reply particularly to your letter last received at present, but I will do it next week. My brother has been with me 10 days and is returned. I have received a letter from Mr. Marsh, Mrs. Clark's nephew, this morning in which it is observed that they will be glad to be informed by me where the late Mr. Clark's relatives live, as they have received from them some letters of condolence, but can make no reply for want of a proper direction to them. I have sent all the letters open for your inspection, and to avoid increasing the weight of the packet. 1 oz. is

allowed, and I have been obliged to keep one letter back, that I had prepared for Mary Clark of Workington, but will send it next week. After looking them over, pray wafer them, and let them be delivered with my compliments, and I hope they will consider themselves obliged to me, but perhaps Sam. Clark has not sense or decency of manners to make such an acknowledgment.

Believe me,

Your sincere well-wisher

THOS. RUMNEY.

London, 27th May, 1797.

MISS MARY CLARK

Of Workington, Cumberland.

DEAR COUSIN,

In consequence of the death of my uncle, the Rev. Mr. Clark of Highworth, Wilts, I find myself call'd upon both out of respect to yourself as well as Mrs. Clark to inform you that Mr. Clark, your worthy friend has bequeathed to you by his last will (a copy of which I have in my possession) £100—4% Stock in the Bank of England, and also to you in Trust for the use of your mother and family £200 of said Stock. I have also the pleasure to say he has remembered all his relations in a very kind and handsome manner. I beg leave to condole with you on the mournful event of his death and also that of my poor sister, Elizabeth, the former died on the 16th

and the latter on the 21st of last month, which I presume you have been informed of by some of our relations, who, however, are not very ready in general to communicate news of any kind. I should be glad if you would do me the favour to acknowledge the receipt of this, and if you should feel disposed to give me an account of your own situation and anything respecting your family of whom I am never informed by anyone anything about, I should be glad to have it. From not knowing your address in Workington I am obliged to send my letter to the care of my brother Anthony. You will please to direct to me at the Old South-Sea House, London, where I have been with a West India Merchant almost ever since I came to London, which is now nearly 14 years since, and which I assure you I have thought a long time to be absent from home; and I am sorry to say that from a late change in my office department, I have now no prospect of being able to pay my respects to my friends in Cumberland for some time to come, so that if my friends wish to see me I must beg the favour of them to come to Town, where I shall always be very glad to see them, and be assured I should be very pleased with a visit from yourself when you can make it convenient.

I recollect my uncle Edward having mentioned to me some time ago your having wrote to him, and I was then happy to understand that he thought favourably of your conduct and intentions in life.

Poor man, he had, I am well assured, real pleasure in seeing his relations prosperous, and he has done much in endeavouring to promote their success in life by granting them pecuniary assistance from time to time to a considerable amount. From my own observation I can venture to say that 2000 guineas has been distributed amongst them before his death, and I notice by the will now before me that the whole amount bequeathed to them in 4 per cent. Stock is £3900, and which for your satisfaction I will furnish you with the particulars of on the other side. Mrs. Clark is appointed Sole Extriix and Residuary Legatee. By a former will he had fixed on me to be one of his Executors. For the last four years he and I corresponded upon terms of pure friendship and in which we were by the will of God finally separated in this transitory world.

List of Legacies left &c., &c.

* * * * *

You will observe that you are the most distant relation to Mr. Clark that he has thought proper to notice. I beg leave to offer you my best services here and to assure you that you have my best wishes for your success and comfort in this world. I have sent a note to your mother and mentioned in what manner she is interested in Mr. Clark's will.

I am your affectionate kinsman,
THOS. RUMNEY.

London, 25th May, 1797.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

(Summary.)

I am surprised and mortified at your application to me for money, as I did not know that you were in debt, and am *exceedingly* awkwardly situated to lend you anything. I have invested the profit upon my Loan and a few pounds with it, which has left me almost pennyless. I wish to take care of my money, as you have recommended, by making the most of it, but if I lend it into private hands I run a risk, and I do not avail myself of receiving the handsome interest Government now allows. Therefore I cannot assist you, but out of personal regard, on which account I send you £5 inclosed, borrowed of Mr. Trevanion's petty cash purse, but cannot promise to furnish you with the other 5, but perhaps my brother Anthony can and will. That A. had not mentioned to my mother respecting participation of sister's money etc.

London, 27th May, 1797.

MRS. MARY RUMNEY.

DEAR PARENT,

My last letter to you of the 18th of last month conveyed the melancholy tidings of our being separated finally in this transitory life from my dearest friend, your poor brother, which added to the event of my poor sister's sudden departure, has, I assure you, formed a very deep and affecting impression upon my mind, and the effects of

it can only be removed by time. My feelings, as you know I believe, were always awake to any events that occurred in our family, but the present seems to wound me more than any occurrence heretofore (my brother William's case excepted). I again repeat my sincere condolence with you on the sudden departure of our dear relations and beloved fellow creatures, whom I have reason to hope are cheerfully accepted into the regions of Eternal Bliss, which I trust also our God out of His infinite mercy, and for Our Redeemer's sake has been pleased to grant. I must, from a sense of duty, tell you that your brother has left a character behind him that but very few in this life either attain to or merit, and which I may say at once confers a certain degree of credit on our family, and the highest pitch of honour, credit and merit on himself, as being an upright Christian and worthy member in society. For some time after my coming to London under his immediate care and attention he conjured me to follow the precepts he kindly took the care to lay before me—but for the last six or seven years he left me entirely to the care and management of myself, and if I asked him for the assistance of his advice and opinion, he would in a very pleasant and endearing manner give me to understand that he thought me quite capable of judging for myself, and that he did not want for confidence in my acting prudently. I have all the letters by me that he has wrote to me ever since I came to

London, and I shall continue to preserve them as vouchers of the opinion he entertained of me, but as he *is* gone I cannot look them over without being more affected than my spirits can endure. I furnished my brother Anthony, I think, with a list of the legacies he has kindly left to his relations, and which I suppose he has told you the particulars of, and I believe I was correct. I have, however, since procured a copy of the will from the Commons at my own expense, and will put down the list underneath for your perusal and satisfaction, and, if you wish it, I will send you an exact copy of the will itself. List of Legacies—

* * * * *

In adding together what he has left to the family now and what he from time to time kindly assisted them with from the best of motives before his death—it proves his attachment and generosity to them to be great indeed, for I cannot from my own knowledge suppose that he has given away less amongst them before his death than the enormous sum of 2000 guineas, so that upon calculating the present donation of £3900—4 % Stock at par, viz. 80 for the 100, which gives the common interest of 5 % it appears that his family have partook of his prudent earnings to the amount of between 5 & 6 thousand pounds. It is impossible for me to ascertain what more than this sum will fall into the hands of Mrs. Clark, who is Sole Executrix and Residuary Legatee, but from my own observation of Mr. Clark's disposition

towards her I cannot think of supposing it to be less than £2000, which added to my foregoing calculation amounts to upwards of £7000, which proves what may be accomplished in time upon the principles of prudence and economy. Having sat down for the purpose of writing to you in a very general and explicit manner, I will thank you for leave to continue my observations. I wish you to know now—which perhaps you never did before—that I believe the whole of the money my uncle assisted me with from the time of my coming to London up to the present hour does not amount to more than about £35, which is just 50/- per year, and I am induced to tell you this truth to lessen the preposterous idea that I find is already spread abroad and even laid before my eyes, of my having reaped a most partial and unknown pecuniary advantage from my uncle in preference to his other relations. I readily admit that in casting an eye over the list of legacies, and noticing my name having five times the sum annexed to it as any other, it does appear rather glaring, but I recommend to those who are disposed to cavil at it to make use of their endeavours to become reconciled by calling their recollection to their assistance and referring to particular circumstances, and if their want of memory or not having noticed matters that belonged to the account during my attention and connection with Mr. Clark does not satisfy them, I am quite ready to assist them with explanations. But setting aside what

I may have to say as a reason why I am allotted more than the rest, much I think ought to be given upon this score as a compliment to the sound understanding, wisdom, and integrity of the person who thought proper to make me welcome to it. Had he not thought me deserving of it, he would, I am sure, have taken care not to have entrusted me with it.

I have had my brother William with me for ten days—since his having attended my uncle's funeral. He came to me at my own request and at my own expense, and I have real pleasure in informing you that I have discovered a certain degree of reform in him in his general conduct and way of thinking that is not easy for me to explain, but which has had the happy effect of relieving me of a continued painful anxiety concerning him.

He now thinks and acts in a moderate manner, and is, I have reason to believe, quite reconciled to the distribution his uncle has made by his last will. Had I not found him so I could not have spoke so much in favour of his conduct as I have done, for if he had not been satisfied with what is bequeathed to him, after having received so large an amount before, I should have been quite sorry.

For your private information I beg leave to tell you, I calculate from what my uncle told me by letter only a few months since that William has had a little more than double the sum which I have received or am to have of my uncle's money,

and I must tell you also that on our having a conversation on the subject of the will he allowed of having had much more than myself and said he always supposed his uncle would have made me equal to himself, if not a little more, from my being rather a favourite in the Family. If others grumble at me, I might grumble at this. I am, however, perfectly easy about it. If I had adopted the same extravagant plans that my brother at one time did, I very likely should have shared equally with him, but I have restrained myself from entering into any plan of expense. I had some time since a thought of getting married, but not finding it to be my uncle's wish, who seemed to think it too great an undertaking for my pocket, I let it alone. I certainly endeavoured very earnestly to make him pleased with my conduct, and I was the more determined so to do in consequence of the bad success he had in bestowing favours on many of our family of whose conduct I have often heard him complain most bitterly. Such was the nature of my situation in office and state of health a few years back that I had a great desire to leave London, but was afraid to propose it to my uncle, who, I was very sure, would feel mortified and disappointed at not being able to rear one branch of the family to a certain degree of credit and consequence, and on this score I must be allowed to say that I conceive I have been a pleasure to him for some years past but at my first coming to London he was ashamed of

me, so was my employer from my having received no education in the least calculated for a Compting House, and which was distressing to my modest feelings beyond expression. My poor sister, I understand, died a few days after her uncle, consequently the legacy he bequeathed to her will be forthcoming to our Family, I presume, and is an object of some consequence. What my sister's property amounts to besides I am not informed of particularly, neither am I at all acquainted how it is meant to be divided, but suppose in a proper, impartial manner to prevent the existing harmony of the Family from being broke. It would be a real satisfaction to me to know your sentiments and whether it is your wish that I should participate with the rest in matters of this kind. I should be glad of a few lines from yourself, but if it is too much trouble for you, pray request my brother Anthony to do it.

I have always felt a strong natural attachment to all my brothers and sisters, and I think you must be sensible of it, and so long as no reason falls in the way for me to withdraw that attachment I shall be happy in encouraging it. In short I could wish to give a proof of my warmth of heart towards them in the manner my worthy uncle has done, but he had lately disapproved of my readiness to come forward in this way.

Having a copy of my uncle's will by me I have undertook to give official information to all our Family that are interested in it what their

respective shares are. Mrs. Clark is not a pen-woman, I fancy, and as she requested me to make her husband's death generally known, I thought it also my duty out of respect to her, as well as my relations, to give information respecting the will, and I hope you are pleased with my attention and assiduity.

My brother William desired me to give his duty to you, and I hope you will feel a pleasure in the account I have given you of him. Having finished the second sheet, I will conclude in assuring you—I am your dutiful and affectionate son,

THOMAS RUMNEY.

London, 27th May, 1797.

MR. & MRS. TRIMBLE.

DEAR BROTHER AND SISTER,

I now beg leave to condole with you very sincerely upon the sudden departure of our uncle Edward and sister Elizabeth. I hope, poor things, they have entered into the Blessings of Eternity, and where I hope we shall each of us in our turn be conveyed to and join them. From not having been informed that my sister was even indisposed, I was quite shocked at the news of her death which it appears happened only five days after that of her uncle who I observe by the will (a copy of which I have by me) has left her a legacy of £200—4%

Stock, which I believe will be forthcoming into our Family. A legacy of the same Sum in the same Stock is also bequeathed to my sister Anne, which I suppose she is already acquainted with from my brother Anthony. Mr. Clark has very kindly remembered all his nearest relations in his will. The following is a list thereof—

* * * * *

My brother William has been with me ten days, since he attended his uncle's funeral, and I have real pleasure in saying he is in sound health and spirits, and he has desired me to let you know that he is disposed to return you the money he borrowed of you as soon as convenience will enable him, but he does not appear to be rich at present. I, however, observe a very favourable change in his general conduct, and think he may yet do pretty well. My aunt, Mrs. Clark, is sole Executrix and Residuary Legatee. Her and I have always been upon friendly terms and it shall be my endeavour that we remain so on account of my dear friend that is call'd away. I have taken upon me a very active part in communicating matters in consequence of my uncle's death to all our relations for their information and satisfaction, and I hope they will think themselves obliged to me for so doing. I took out a copy of the will at my own expense for the purpose. I have undergone so much writing business in office and my private concerns latterly that I am much fatigued with it, I assure you. I hope your family are all

well, and with an offer of my best services and kind wishes towards you, I remain

Your loving and affectionate brother

THOS. RUMNEY.

London, 27th May, 1797.

MRS. BARBARA POLLOCK.

[Heads of Letter to her.]

Condolence on the melancholy events of the death of my uncle and sister—my attention to my uncle since under his care—and his attachment to me for it—the legacy left her of £200—4% Stock—that I should lay the interest of mine by—pleased with the care and attention paid to my sister Elizabeth—suppose the legacy left her to fall to our family—my brother William's 10 days' visit to me—my approbation of his conduct—I paid his expenses of coming to see me.

London, 27th May, 1797.

MR. ANTHONY RUMNEY.

DEAR BROTHER,

I come now to reply to your remarks made in your last letter respecting family concerns. You seem surprised at my standing so much higher than the rest in the list of legacies left by our uncle Edward, and you say had it been £200 less and that put to our brother William's allowance it would have agreed with your ideas better.

For me it is a very delicate subject to argue upon, but from what you have suggested I think it required of me to say something. You say you hope I will excuse your having given your sentiments. Believe me you cannot please me better than by giving me a proof of your candour. Had our uncle with all his wisdom, circumspection and integrity thought proper to have interested our brother William in his last will *more* and me *less* I certainly should have had, as you say, no reason whatever to have grumbled, and I think if from his long experience and trial of my conduct, he had not thought me fully deserving of what is bequeathed to me he would not have entrusted me with it. I can tell you also as I have told my mother, that the amount my brother William has had and is to receive on our uncle's account, is more than twice the sum I have left me now, and that I have received heretofore, which I calculate at £35 had soon after my coming to London. My brother himself acknowledges that he has received a great deal more than I have, and says he is a little surprised my share is not more equal to what he has received. It would be hard indeed if all my Industry and prudent Economy availed me nothing.

My brother was with me 10 days and I was exceedingly glad of his company, although at my own expense. I have forgiven him his debt to me of £5 1s. 0d. and his board and lodging while with me. I am vastly pleased with his present form

of conduct, which encourages me to entertain better hopes of him than I ever did before. He seems quite satisfied with the legacy left him. You may be assured that if I saw an opportunity of serving him with propriety my love and friendship for him would induce me to do it. But though my uncle is gone out of this world, his eye of observation will long live to notice my future conduct, and as I am very desirous of following the precepts he kindly took the pains to lay down to me from time to time, I must not step from the care of my own concerns into that of others, where much risk is depending on effecting but a little good. I have not the Ground to stand upon that you have. My situation admits of but temporary gain and advantages; yours is not so.

My brother brought no extraordinary information from Highworth. Our uncle was carried to the grave in a very decent becoming manner, and all parties were moderate and tolerably friendly. The money lent me by Mrs. Clark I have returned and was glad to replace it to prevent being grumbled at. I contented myself with a small profit upon the loan of £44, which I have put into the Stocks. Mrs. Clark has never wrote me a line herself since Mr. Clark's death, but I fancy she is not a pen-woman. She has parted a few shirts, etc., between Bill and me, which instance of respect I am much pleased with. I have signified to my mother my wish to know her sentiments respecting the disposing of our poor

sister's money concerns, etc. The legacy I conclude to be forthcoming to our family. The will mentions *heirs* with respect to my mother, you, Bill, my sisters, the Clarks of Penrith, Mrs. Thompson, but not myself. If my mother should not feel herself disposed to write to me, I have asked her to give you leave to speak to me about certain matters. I hope my frank of last week got safe to hand and that the notes contained in it were received with thanks. My undertaking to give such information was merely to oblige them, and pray endeavour to make them sensible of it, if they do not seem so. My brother William had rather be excused writing to any of his friends on this event, which induces me to write the more, as I cannot suffer them to be neglected, but I have wrote and thought so much upon the business that I am quite wearied out.

I have overloaded my frank and am obliged to tear a part off the letters to Bab and Anne I have enclosed to your care, and you must settle the postage with them. I shall be glad to hear that they all get down safe, and pray take an opportunity of letting me know if they do—how my mother is, &c., &c., &c. I have wrote two sheets to my mother.

Am your sincere well-wisher,
THOS. RUMNEY.

London, 7th June, 1797.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

(Summary.)

Should have acknowledged having received back the £5, had I been aware of your anxiety—waited to have a letter from Bro. A. in order to communicate its contents—supposed I should not have a pleasant account from him—thought I had been too busy in attending to my relatives—supposed if my uncle had paid less attention to me I should have been better liked by my own family—acknowledged my sending the £5 was done with a bad grace, it not being my own—hoped Miss Holyoak had received the hat, etc., quite safe—compliments from sundries.

London, 9th June, 1797.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

(Summary.)

Mentioned having had a letter from brother Anthony, who told me of Mrs. Alice Rumney being dead, aged 77 and buried on 29th May—Anthony paying her £10 per annum and that she had been in the habit of receiving it for 30 years—that A. seemed glad to be freed from continuing it—that A. has made no sort of reply to my enquiries about sister's or mother's property being divided—recommended his writing to Anthony and mother, who might communicate the concern to him—that they had expected Mrs. Clark to send them a copy of the will, &c., &c.

CHAPTER XI

TOM'S PLANS FOR HIMSELF

London, 10th June, 1797.

MR. ANTHONY RUMNEY.

(Summary.)

Furnished a complete copy of my uncle's will—congratulated him upon getting rid of paying the £10 per annum to Alice Rumney—told him his property now yielded him a handsome income or would at his mother's death—told him that when my health would not justify my living in London, I hoped he would allow me to ask him for a tenement to live upon—that I thought 8 or 10 years the longest term I could fix for going on as I had been accustomed to in London, and a more sober and regular conduct could not be adopted—that my income would be handsome when I partook of the interest of my legacy, and for ten years with economy would make me quite independent, but a wife or a country life might stop the accumulation, but that I must see him and my native home if possible before I ventured on any important change—I did not like to apply to my aunt to send a copy of the will—that I had undertaken to communicate matters to my relations from my good-will towards them.

That he did not give me the most distant hints as to the distribution of our sister's effects &c.—that my brother William and I wished some light to be thrown upon the matter—that I wrote to Bill last night—mentioned the rise in the Stocks—the prospect of peace etc.

London, 22nd June, 1797.

MISS M. CLARK,
Workington, Cumberland.

DEAR COUSIN,

I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 10th inst., and return you my thanks for your very polite attention to me. I have always much pleasure in hearing from my relations, and corresponding with them, but I am not very fortunate in having many amongst them that have both the will and capacity to attend to communicate Family occurrences so often as I could wish. *You*, however, seem to be possessed of both, and I flatter myself I may put you down as an acquisition in this respect, and if you will have the goodness to take the trouble of writing me a letter every now and then, I assure you it would be gratifying. My brother A. writes to me sometimes, but is always extremely laconick. I thank you for the information respecting your family, which are much more in number than I had an idea of. Candidus, poor fellow, call'd on me several times and I was much pleased with him and thought him a very

promising youth, but it is now long since I heard anything of him. 'Tis John whom you mention to be your other brother at sea, I presume. Your mother has still a great charge upon her hands in having so many of her children at home. Pray which sister is it that is in Dublin, and what was the cause of her going there? I am very glad to find you are able to speak so well of your own situation, and I suppose you think yourself too well off for the present to think of making a change. My brother Anthony informs me that our relations in the North are not satisfied in not being furnished with a copy of my late uncle's will by Mrs. Clark, the Executrix, and he has recommended it to me to apply to her in consequence of it, but I am very unwilling to do it, knowing that she is not handy with her pen, nor situated to undertake such a concern without much inconvenience and trouble, but she, or some person for her, might have authorised me to have given the necessary information officially to all interested in the will, which has not been done. I, however, conclude that he conceives me to have done it, and I shall not now take notice of my brother's observation to her. I have sent him a full copy of a confirmed copy of the will, and now avail myself of furnishing you with one also, and hope it will be perfectly satisfactory. From no time being mentioned in the will for the payment of the legacies, the customary period of twelve months and a day from the deceased's death will be the time of their falling due, viz., 16/17 April,

1798, at which time I fancy Mrs. Clark will commission me to arrange the concern with my relations to save her all possible trouble, and which I will certainly undertake to do with much pleasure.

You kindly observe that I might expect a very pleasant reception on visiting my native home. No individual, my dear Mary, could, I think, feel more truly gratified on that event taking place than myself, and I most sincerely wish I could with propriety effect it, but present circumstances forbid it.

From not knowing when I may have it in my power to pay my respects to my relations in Cumberland I feel a great desire be favoured with a visit from some of them, and within these few days I have made up my mind to propose to a few of them their taking a trip to London next spring, and as the legacies must be taken up in the month of April, I shall propose that particular period for their entering the Metropolis. In the small list of visitors I have proposed having the pleasure of receiving on the occasion is your name and those of my two brothers, and I flatter myself you will all be freely disposed to engage in it. My brother Anthony has not yet been informed of it, but I daresay he will join in it with pleasure, and you and him can come up together if it should suit your convenience as well as be your wish to pay me the compliment. Travelling expenses are high, but I would give you leave to put your hand into my pocket to defray certain expenses. You discover

a particular attachment to some of our relations at Sheffield whom you and my brother might call upon on the road, either to or from me, which, I fancy, would be pleasant to you all.

When you have turned it in your mind, if the scheme tempts you to wish to undertake it, I shall be glad to hear from you. Mr. and Mrs. Clark of Highworth were to have paid me a visit in the month Mr. Clark died, and would have done it, if Mr. C.'s illness had not prevented it. If you dislike travelling without a female companion, we must endeavour to find one that you approve of. The last letter I received from my brother Anthony informed me of his grandmother* Alice Rumney having died after a very few days' illness, aged 77 years, from which event he gets rid of paying her a yearly allowance of £10, and which he says she has been in the habit of receiving for thirty years past. The Esquire of Mellfell has now a very pretty income from his landed property, and I fancy he is very deserving of it. My brother William is not quite so rich, but I am glad to find him more prudent latterly in his conduct than was the case a few years back. He is now a curate in Gloucestershire, and I have the pleasure to say enjoys both good health and spirits. I have been obliged to live upon a small salary myself till very lately. I am now saving something and my prospects of success begin to brighten a little, and in a year or two I hope to get comfortably settled.

* Step-grandmother.

If I was independent in pecuniary circumstances, I would make a retreat to Cumberland, but that not being case, and my snug employment here yielding a pretty income, I must remain with it a few years longer I think.

If you can fix upon a female companion for me in Cumberland, I will thank you to bring her with you to the South-Sea House when you come.

I cannot help thinking that a tolerably well-educated country lady would be better calculated for me than one brought up in London. I am very much pleased to find you entertain so good an opinion of your Family on your father's side, which have long been established in high repute within the circle of their connections and acquaintances, and I myself have a vast wish to preserve the credit belonging thereto and to be considered a real branch of the originals. With every kind and respectful wish towards you

I remain, my dear Mary,

Your affectionate humble servt.,

THOS. RUMNEY

Copy of will enclosed and franked per Trevanion.

London, 24th June, 1797.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

(Summary.)

Told of Miss M. Clark having wrote to me in a pretty manner—that I had invited her to come

to see me with my brother A. in April next—and wish himself to come also—expressed my approval of Miss C.'s behaviour, and thought her time might be better employed in London than the North—that I had ordered my seal to be engraved—Crest, Lion's head, etc.—Mary Mason and Miss William's enquiry about the parcel sent Miss Holyoak—my intention of writing to Mrs. Clark soon of Highworth—had put an acct. of Mr. Clark's death in the Gent. Magazine of last month. Paid postage.

London, 28th June, 1797.

MR. JAS. RICHARDSON,

Frigate *Phaeton*, Causand Bay, Plymouth.

(Summary.)

Congratulated him on his arrival and success at sea—told him about Parker* the assumed Port Admiral—that he was tried, condemned, and to be hung to-morrow on board the *Neptune* in the long Reach—that prospects of peace brightened—sent him extract just received from Germany respecting the negotiations—that I had given my brother and Miss Clark an invitation to come to see me next April, and insisted on his coming also to join them—that Miss Clark was an accomplished young woman, etc.—that Carleton and I had been to the circus last night with five young Girls and were to have three Ladies to tea to-day—to go to the Artillery ground—asked him to come

* Richard Parker, the leader of the mutiny of the *Nore*.

and see us loaded with dollars—Provisions dear—trade dull—requested he would write every now and then—asked if anything fresh had transpired between him and Knight.

London, 30th June, 1797.

MR. A. RUMNEY.

(Summary.)

Miss Mary Clark of Workington's polite letter—giving her an invitation to come to see me in April next with himself and brother William—asked him to give me an account of her character, merits etc.—thought her calculated to get her bread to advantage in London—that I had offered to pay part of her expenses of travelling—if Samuel Clark wished to accompany them I had no objections to seeing him—the seal, the stone of which Mr. Clark gave me, the cost £2 15s. *od.*, if my mother made any remarks respecting the will—or said anything about sister E.'s effects—grass plentiful about London, half cut down—had received letters from Messrs. Lancaster and Richardson—to write when he could find time—no acct. from Highworth—that I meant to write soon, altho' I was not wrote to. Remembrance to my mother and sisters.

London, 8th July, 1797.

MRS. CLARK,
Highworth.

MY DEAR AUNT,

Seven weeks ago I did myself the pleasure of informing you that I had returned the money to Mr. Rutter which you were so kind as to favour me with. Since that time I have neither had the pleasure of hearing from yourself, nor from anyone at Highworth. To know nothing of what transpires there seems quite a loss to me from my having so long been in the habit of receiving at least a general account of occurrences which never failed in giving me a certain degree of pleasure and satisfaction. I can't, however, expect to be indulged in this respect as I have been. A change of circumstances, not a little affecting to me, must account for it. The uniform kindness and attention I have experienced at your hands ever since I had the pleasure of being known to you has formed my attachment to you in such a manner that I never can blot it out of my remembrance, and be assured I shall be ever ready and happy in discovering to you a proof of it. I should be much gratified in paying my respects to you personally, but circumstanced as I now am it is out of my power to effect it with either convenience or propriety. Mr. Johnson, I fancy you know from Mr. Chas. Jones's account of him is too anxious about the concerns of his Compting House to have it shut up one day and I am sure he

would not listen to the proposal of a borrowed clerk for a few days to officiate in my absence ; should I, however, by and by see a favourable opportunity of taking a run down I will certainly embrace it. I have much pleasure in being able to say that Mr. Johnson continues to treat me with all the respect I think myself entitled to, and I flatter myself he is perfectly satisfied with my conduct. He now smiles at my being so cowardly as not to make this second payment upon my loan which might have put more profit in my pocket than what I got by 200 guineas, but as I have already acquainted you I could not reconcile the idea of letting the business stand open any longer from motives of delicacy. I now beg leave to observe that my relations in the North have requested me some time since to apply to you for a copy or the particulars of Mr. Clark's will, but I was so unwilling to disturb you about it that I undertook to give them the required information myself, and to enable me to do it I was under the necessity of taking out a copy of the will at the Commons at my own expense, and I trust you will approve of my having given those interested in the will an account of what their shares are, and if I can save you any trouble at the time the legacies fall due in April next I will certainly do it with pleasure.

I have had the stone engraved and set in gold which my poor affectionate uncle gave me, and which Mr. Powell was kind enough to bring in his

hand when he came last to town. The cost has far exceeded my calculations and is but a few shillings short of £3, but had it been much more I would have paid it cheerfully on account of the profound respect I always did and ever shall entertain of my dear friend deceased to whom I flatter myself my conduct afforded some degree of consolation for the mortification he must have felt in his kind endeavours to serve certain individuals in our family. The kind advice he gave me and the examples he set in life will forever I hope be attended to by me, and I think you will believe me honest in saying so, as I am persuaded that you were very sensible that I both loved and feared him. Since my last letter to you I have been informed of the sudden death of my grandmother, Alice Rumney, aged 77 years. My mother, I have the pleasure to say, continues pretty well in health and her spirits are as good as can be expected on her being, poor body, surrounded by such a scene of melancholy and affecting events as have taken place within the last three months. I feel for her much and have a great desire to see her, but I can't go to her for the same reason I can't come to see you.

Pray have you still in your possession your domestic and harmonious crew the Bees? If they want a little brown sugar by and bye I should have real pleasure in supplying their wants. The West India Fleet is not yet arrived, but we shall have it in, in the course of a week or ten days, I fancy.

Mr. Chas. Jones is not a visitor at the Compting House and I know very little of him, but understand he is in high spirits. I should be happy in being favoured with a letter from you at your leisure, as I am anxious to know how you and friends at Highworth are to whom I beg to be respectfully remembered, and I remain, my dear Aunt

Your dutiful and affectionate nephew

THOS. RUMNEY.

Sent per frank per Trevanion.

London, 11th July, 1797.

REV. MR. RUMNEY.

(Summary.)

A very long letter—enclosed an extract of Mr. Francis Holyoak's will—thought Miss Charlotte Holyoak sufficiently interested for him to pay particular attention to her, and hoped he would by and by give me a good account thereof—mentioned my own views of a married state to be pursuits of Industry—Economy—and Cheerfulness—the Folly of others in entering that state—ruined by Vanity etc.—inclosed Miss Mary Clark's first letter to me for him to peruse, and requested it might be returned postage free—told him of my having wrote to Mrs. Clark of Highworth, and in what manner, and that I had discovered a wish to hear from her—that I expected to hear from

brother A. soon and hoped he would also hear and that we should both be informed respecting our Sister Elizabeth's effects—told him I had had a second letter from Mary Clark who has accepted my invitation to accompany my brother Anthony to London—mentioned Mr. Johnson's taking his son to Oxford for his education—that the West India Fleet was coming in etc.

Forwarded by Mr. Martin's coachman from Downing Street.

London, 13th July, 1797.

Rev. J. RICHARDSON,
Burslem,
Staffordshire.

DEAR SIR,

I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of and reply to your esteemed favour of the 6th inst. I am sorry to observe, my dear sir, you make use of so much ceremony in addressing your kinsman, altho' the first time, and I hope you will lay it all aside in future, and be assured I shall be very glad in keeping up a correspondence with you and I congratulate myself upon the idea of it, and consider you an acquisition to my list of Worthies. Your brother James is amongst the first of my favourites. I conceived an attachment to him from the first time I knew him, and which continues without any abatement. I am truly sorry for his misfortunes

and bad success in life, but I still flatter myself that he will yet be restored to ease and comfort, and whenever an opportunity offers of my rendering him my services to advantage it shall be embraced. I am in the habit of hearing from him frequently and I fancy he is now on board the Phaeton frigate at Plymouth. He observed to me some time since that you might probably apply to me respecting those warm constitutioned women you speak of, but in a subsequent letter he told me, I think, that you had got the business settled. I have sent to the War Office to make enquiries and I shall have an answer in a day or two, and you may be assured I will pay the necessary attention to it agreeable to your instructions and with pleasure to myself. I thank you for your polite invitation to pay you a visit at Burslem. I should be very glad in making a call on you and my new relation, Mrs. Richardson, as well as all my other relations that I have not seen for 14 long years, but I am so circumstanced in my office as not to have it in my power to be absent from it one day and I am afraid it will be some time before I can absent myself with propriety. I have given my brothers, A. & W., and a cousin, Miss Clark of Workington, an invitation to come and see me in London in April next, and shall be equally glad to see you and Mrs. Richardson along with them.

The mournful events that have taken place in our Family within the last three months have been very distressing to me. My worthy uncle of

Highworth died 16 April and my dear sister Elizabeth on the 21st do and Alice Rumney, grandmother, a few weeks ago, and my poor mother, I am afraid, will not survive them much longer, which altogether forms a scene truly melancholy. My spirits, thank God, on this trying occasion, (are better) than I could have expected. My uncle, I have the pleasure to say, has left as much as £3900 1% Stock amongst his relations, in which is included nephews and nieces £200 each, myself something more.

14th July. I am now furnished with the most satisfactory answer that can be procured at present from the War Office, but have only got one Certificate, which I will retain in my possession, and wait your further directions concerning it, but for your satisfaction I will give you a copy of it, viz.

John Ball, a private of the 53 Regt. died 2 Sept. '96, as per Muster Roll thereof, taken on the Island of St Vincent 7th Feb., 1797.

As to the rest I must observe as follows, viz.

William Leigh of 56 Regiment, no Muster Roll since 1783.

Thos. Taylor of 55 } no d^o since left England
John Williams of 44 } 1795

John Stephens of 130, living 12th Aug., 1795.

If you wish to have the enquiry repeated a few months hence I will attend to it. The present has been properly gone into by a friend of mine, an

officer in the Guards. I am sorry to tell you I have spent 6/- in this business, which I will give you credit for any length of time.

I have much pleasure in telling you that I have this moment received a letter from your brother James, dated Causand Bay, Plymouth, 12th inst. He seems in good spirits and pretty comfortable, I think. His letter is very friendly and affectionate, but contains no extraordinary news. You and him are upon the best of terms I hope, altho' you have not mentioned even his name in your kind letter to me. Does my brother William and you keep up a regular correspondence now, pray? I shall at all times be very glad to hear from you and with an offer of my kindest respects to Mrs. Richardson, I beg you will believe me your sincere well-wisher, and affectionate kinsman,

THOS. RUMNEY.

London, 22nd July, 1797.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

(Summary.)

Respecting the packet of letters sent to Downing Street to be forwarded by Mr. Martin's coachman—my displeasure at Anthony's negligence—I sent him a 40/- note—could not spare more—must be returned at convenience—sent it to keep off blue Devils—to further his prospects etc. mentioned having written to Mrs. Clark a fortnight ago and received no reply, and

should write to Mr. Powell if I wanted anything in future if she did not answer it—his making no comments on the extract of Mr. Holyoak's will I sent down to him—his intended journey to see Miss Holyoak at Buxton and to see the Revd. Richardson on the road—recommended him to attach himself to Miss H.—said I was disposed to take a wife upon prudent terms and joked respecting the lass he had in view for me—Extract of what I said respecting Miss Clark—"I thank you for returning Mary Clark's letter and am glad you give her so much credit. If her person and conduct are equal to her letter-writing, I should like to have her for a wife, but cognation I presumed forbids your cloth to admit it, does it not? my second letter to her contained a little mirth and she has made a complete reply to it—the Girl is really smart and clever to an extraordinary degree and has almost got possession of my heart—she seems with all very modest and prudent, but I must use political reserve until I am informed (by my brother A. whom I have applied to) what her conduct has been hitherto." I suppose A. not very much inclined to undertake the journey in the spring. My great wish to see him and the rest—sorry for his rheumatism and cold—my being lame—

CHAPTER XII

PLANS FOR THE PARSON

London, 29th July, 1797.

MRS. JANE CLARK.

DEAR AUNT,

I was favoured with a few lines from your nephew, Mr. Richard Marsh, the other day on your account by which I was sorry to find you were not quite well. I hope, however, this will find you perfectly recovered and in good spirits.

The $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt of Sugar for Mrs. Powell I have sent in a box and made a purchase of it at our cooper's at 9d. per lb., and I hope it will answer the purpose it was intended for. I would have supplied you out of my own stock, but I have not yet collected so much of a quality equal to the order. I have made the best bargain I could for the Fenders (a bill of which is inclosed), and I hope they will please. The waggoner, I trust, will take good care of them; and I shall be glad to hear when it suits that this trifling commission is executed to your satisfaction. I am ashamed to hear of the extraordinary request made by Mrs. James Clark. I wrote to her myself out of respect to the Family two months ago, and made her acquainted with the

manner in which she was interested in Mr. Clark's will, and what can have induced her to make a further enquiry, and trouble you with it, I cannot conceive. I have given her daughter Mary of Workington the particulars of the will and she has acknowledged my attention to her in a becoming manner, and I am induced to think her a very sensible, prudent, young woman, and I trust she will give me a proof of it in conducting this business her worthy friend deceased has committed to her management. Her mother I never was personally acquainted with and know but little of, but I have a regard for the children that will always incline me to give an eye of attention towards them. I will refer Mrs. Clark to my mother for the particulars she has enquired about.

Mr. Marsh makes an apology for the shortness etc. of his letter to me, which I am sorry he troubled himself with. Pray give my best respects to him and tell him I am much obliged by his kind attention both to you and myself, and that I shall be glad to hear from him on a similar occasion in future, when it may occur to be of convenience to yourself.

With every kind wish towards you and all friends at Highworth, I remain

Your dutiful and affectionate nephew

THOS RUMNEY.

London, 4th August, 1797.

REV. W. RUMNEY.

DEAR BROTHER,

The business you have suggested to me is of an important nature sure enough, and you seem to pay serious attention to it. The Scheme, however, is to me so new and of such a nature that for the present I do not feel myself enabled to reply so fully as I could wish to some of your pointed remarks, or rather questions, and before I pawn my word of honour in the concern, I must be furnished with circumstantial information upon the business. £2500 is, my dear fellow, a round sum of Sterling Cash in those times when money is so dear. Individuals are alarmed to see their property in the Bank reduced nearly one half since the present war commenced, and money invested in the 3 per cents. yields now about 6 per cent. and in certain funds much more. This information I give you as a guide to make a good bargain. £2500 laid out at 6% is £150 per annum without trouble or risk, but if £100 per annum more, as you state, could be secured with it, and also the consideration of Domestick Comfort, it might be wise and prudent to adopt the scheme, now in embryo. I repeat again that notwithstanding you have furnished me with a statement respecting the matter, I am very far from being competent to judge whether the terms ought to encourage your embarking in the affair or not and I think you

cannot do better than consult with and take the advice of your neighbours and sincere Well Wishers. In taking a slight survey of your own circumstances and present situation, it seems bold, spirited, and a little speculative in you to engage in this contemplative matter, but I do not wish to dash cold water upon it until I see it smoke with imprudence. The answer from Miss Holyoak will, I hope, be favourable, and if this purchase should take place with her assistance, I presume she will take her seat in a Freehold Chair in that pleasantly situated house at Beckford. With respect to your looking to me for assistance of a pecuniary nature you must excuse my saying more at present than that I am freely disposed to serve you to the extent of convenience. £500 is a large sum to be raised on your part or out of your Family ; but Miss H. has a right to expect to see you accomplish it, if she advances the £2000. Your £200 legacy, from the low price of Stocks, is not worth more than £130, the 4 per cents. being only £65. Admitting then that that sum £130 is taken out of £500, there still remains £370, which is within £5 of half of the whole amount of the legacy left me by my worthy uncle. And if I was to sell out half of said legacy from the Bank of England to be lent into private hands it would be very much against the advice given me by poor Mr. Clark, and I should be sorry myself to dip so freely into that sacred Purse before I had almost got possession of it. Furniture etc. for your house would be wanted, which would cost you no

inconsiderable sum. I presume you would have occasion to borrow 500 guineas from your friends, and if 'tis to be entered into, my brother A., my mother, and Bab, should at least be contributors with me in it. You cannot be unacquainted with my friendly disposition towards you and I have a real wish to see you settled upon a permanent snug establishment, but you must allow me to pay some attention to myself in a similar point of view, and I am a plain, honest fellow that earns my Bread by being sober, diligent, and frugal. When you inform me of Miss Holyoak's answer and what encouragement you receive from further enquiry amongst your Neighbours etc. etc. you shall have my further observations respecting the business, and perhaps may recommend your sounding your friends at Mellfell. At what period does Mr. Biddle talk of resigning? When does Miss Holyoak return from Buxton? How do you suppose Mr. and Mrs. Holyoak to be disposed? Have they any Feather Beds etc. to give away?

Mentioned Anthony not having wrote to me yet—that I might perhaps write to him to-morrow—that I had heard from Mrs. Clark of Highworth and sent sugar for Mrs. Powell—two Fenders for Mrs. C. that Mrs. Clark of Penrith had wrote to her for particulars of Mr. C.'s will, at which I was surprised and should refer her to the copy sent to my brother A.

London, 5th August, 1797.

MR. ANTHONY RUMNEY.

SIR,

You must allow me to say I am ashamed of your inattention towards me. I wrote to you, as appears by my letter book on the 10th June, now nearly two months ago, and again on the 30th of said month when I earnestly requested you to write to me soon, but you have not thought fit to acknowledge the receipt of either, notwithstanding all the pains and attention I have paid to you and my relations in consequence of your Uncle's Death. I know it is your busy time in the hay-field, but I cannot admit that, nor no other Plowman's concerns in the field as an excuse for not writing a few lines when call'd upon, and I do not hesitate in telling you that my business is both more perplexing, irritating and important to me than yours can possibly be to you, yet I find time sufficient with a willing mind to write letters as often as I wish or see occasion to do. My uncle always gave me credit for such attention and nothing, I think, is more pleasing. I think you could not help discovering in both my late letters, but particularly the last, that I wished anxiously for your reply to several remarks made therein, and for which I still wait and hope you will take the trouble in obliging me. My brother William had his debt to me forgiven him of £5-1-0. When he came to see me last, his board etc. was about £2

and I lent him 2 guineas besides on his setting off on his return home. These several sums amount to £9-3-0. He had not been at home but a very short time before he applied to me for more, and I sent him down £5 by post, but told him it was with some degree of inconvenience I could spare it. He felt a little huff'd and sent it back immediately, since which I find he has applied to you, and that you have excused yourself which he seems not pleased with. In my letter in answer to the one containing said information I sent him a £2 note, so that you see my payment to him within these few months has been £11-3-0, to which is also to be added 9/- paid on his acct. for the extract of a will in the Commons which makes it £11-12-0. Well Sir, Yesterday I was honoured by an application from him to borrow of me £500 to be furnished in the course of 8 or 9 months for the purpose of enabling him to purchase a living of a Mr. Biddle of Beckford near his own residence. The whole of the purchase money he reports to be £2500, in order to accomplish which he puts down £2000 to be found in Miss Holyoak's pocket and £500 in mine. For your more perfect information and satisfaction I will give you his own observations upon it to me, viz.—

“ Miss Holyoak cannot command, etc. . . . ”

I presume if this weighty affair should go on he intends marrying Miss H., but he does not say so. I rather think he is going in a day or two to fetch her back from Buxton in Derbyshire. Besides this purchase money a pretty large sum of

course must be wanted to buy furniture, etc. with. His £200 4 % Stock would only sell for £130 now, which deducted from £500 leaves £370, the real sum he proposes borrowing out of his own Family, for altho' he applies in fact to me for it, I cannot suppose he expects me to befriend him in it further than in a proper proportion with the rest of the Family, and which if the plan should be approved of and put into execution I both hope and trust they will not hesitate to come forward in. I can't calculate at present that the sum of money he will require from his own friends on this important occasion will fall much short of £600.

Undoubted security, I believe, may be had for the payment of both principal and interest, but how we can in our Family lay down for him so large a sum of money I know not. The legacies falling due in April next, will put money into our hands, but how far each of us may be disposed to lend it is a question not to be answered by me, and all that I can say about it myself at present is that I am disposed to bear at least a full share in conjunction with a certain part of our family who must be considered as well affected towards my brother and as liable to be call'd upon to assist him in an instance like the present as myself. He seems for his credit and the sake of appearance to wish one name only to be given in to Mr. Biddle to make the contract with and either you or I must be appointed, and it is a matter of indifference to me which of us is placed in that situation. I have

thought proper thus early to give you the fullest information possible for your as well as my own government and that of our Family. I expect to hear again from William next week, and expect to know then how Miss Holyoak is disposed, what his own second thoughts are upon the business, and how he digests the letter I wrote to him last night at his request, in which I told him that from not being competent to judge of the propriety or impropriety of engaging in so important a concern and for the want of circumstantial information I must for the present stand excused answering his pointed remarks and hard questions. As he seems inclined to correspond chiefly with me upon this business, I must recommend it to you to lose no time in letting me know as well as you can the disposition of our family around you with respect to their lending money on the occasion. Should I make myself answerable to furnish the whole amount to the Rev. Mr. Biddle, perhaps the shortest way would be for me to take a bond for the whole amount of my brother, and make myself liable to such of the Family as subscribed, for the repayment of their advances, but this can be thought of hereafter.

Mentioned also the opinion to be given to me respecting the above business and respecting Mary Clark—told him of her mother having wrote to my aunt of Highworth—For him to show Mrs. Jas. Clark the copy of the will—The disposal of my sister's legacy, &c., &c.

London, 8th August, 1797.

MR. THOMAS LANCASTER,
Alexandria, Virginia.

DEAR L.,

Your favour of the 3rd May is now before me and I am glad to observe you write in such good spirits and that you have cheerful prospects before you. Hope, my dear fellow, is a charming companion and is so essential to our comfort in this life that she ought to be encouraged. Could I flatter myself that my letters to you were either interesting or entertaining you should certainly have a few more of them in the course of the year, but I walk so little in public circles or in busy life that I am incapable of communicating such news as I conceive you would value the most from this Metropolis. The many melancholy events that have taken place in my family within the last four months prevents my making my address to you now as cheerful as I could wish. My best friend, my uncle who lived in Wilts, is dead, also my youngest sister, and a grandmother. They all died suddenly, which made it very affecting. My uncle, poor man, has bequeathed to me a pretty sum in the 4 % Stock, which will improve my income £40 per annum. He has also remembered many of his other relations handsomely. The whole that he has bequeathed to them is in 4 % Stock amounting to £3900, and his widow, who is left Sole Executrix and Residuary Legatee is, I

believe, very comfortably provided for. It appears that the old gentleman from a strict and uniform pursuit of care, industry, and economy, has earned in his life time about £8000. My sister died of dead decline, and my grandmother (as Carleton says, because she could not help it), at the age of 77. You will allow me to say that all these gloomy events coming almost together must have their effect upon a thinking mind. This summer I have taken up my country lodgings at Pentonville in consequence of having taken up arms in the Artillery Company in behalf of my Lord Mayor and fellow citizens. I have learnt the use of Brown Bess pretty well, but she was more fatiguing and awkward to me at first than the Plow Tail, flail, etc. ever were. Volunteer Choirs (sic) are become very common all over old England. The East India Company have trained their warehousemen behind the Shepherd and Shepherdess, and I assure you they have all the appearance of regular troops, and perform their exercise exceedingly well. They are divided into two regiments 500 in each. Our Artillery Company amount to about 300, the Light Horse Volunteers, now under excellent discipline, 300, and the Militia 1000, so that our city muster is 2300 foot and 300 horse, besides a very considerable number of what are called the supplementary of both horse and foot. I hope, however (but not from a cowardly disposition of my own), that we shall have no occasion to step into the Field of Battle,

and that a short time longer will bring us the blessing of a permanent Peace. I shall say nothing now of my being sanguine of our procuring an honourable one. That Hour I am afraid is gone past. Lord Malmesbury with Lord Gower and some other Characters of Distinction went over to France to negotiate a peace about a month since, but our Cabinet Ministers keep all the information to themselves respecting the affair. I have, however, this moment looked into a letter come to hand for Mr. Johnson from the Secretary at the Post Office, which gives the information that Lord Gower Major, the Messenger and a servt. arrived at Dover from Calais at three-quarters past six o'clock last night, but I have not yet been able to learn the object of their coming over, but most likely for Billy's explanations and fresh instructions. The French by Lloyd's Books daily keep picking up your Traders at sea. How much longer will your Pusillanimity, which you own to, suffer such encroachments. I wish you success with all my heart in your mercantile undertakings. From the very long continuance of the War trade here becomes very dull, and the spirit of our manufactories generally is much abated, and the heavy increase of Taxes brought on by such enormous Loans becomes very oppressive and disheartening to the honest and industrious, and if peace is far distant, the consequence is, I must fear, to be dreaded by us all. Have you any encouragement to hold out to me and Carleton to

cross the Atlantic. I have the pleasure to intimate to you that I conceive my brother Bill is in strict pursuit of a staunch Frigate, built of the best British Oak, named the Holyoak, and to be launched in the clear possession of £2000—"an five hundred pund mare when fadder and mudder dees."

Our hay harvest has been very productive and the corn looks well at present, notwithstanding the long continued heavy rains. I presume you have very little knowledge of or concern with farming matters in America. Can you recommend your old friend Carleton to lay out a part or the whole of his Bank of England Stock in purchasing land or house in your climate, which might agree with his constitution, which you know is rather chilly. Johnny joins me in every kind wish towards you, and I remain,

Your obedient humble servt.

THOMAS RUMNEY.

Per the *Industry*, sails immediately.

London, 15th August, 1797.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

(Summary.)

Commended him for being deliberate respecting the bargain with Mr. Biddle—that I thought the Stocks the best to speculate in at present with spare cash—told him I had wrote to his brother A. respecting the whole of the affair ten days ago,

and that I hope to hear from him this week, and would give him information thereof without loss of time—mentioned that I conceived the affair between him and Miss Holyoak to be in a train of settlement, and that I could not but see it in the most favourable light, and hoped to hear from him frequently upon the subject—told him of my chiding Anthony for not paying better attention to me—expressed my joy at the improvement of his health.

Postage of the Letter paid per T.R.

Old South-Sea House,

16th August, 1797

To CAPT. HUGHES of the North East Division.

SIR,

In answer to your note dated 4th July last (intended perhaps for the 4th instant) I beg leave to observe that being a very young member in the Honourable Artillery Company and not having had the business stated to me circumstantially, which you have wrote to me upon, and having also to complain of inattention and disorder on the part of the officers in the North East Division, I am not disposed at present to contribute anything to the matter in question.

I am, with due respect,

Yours, etc.,

THOS. RUMNEY

CHAPTER XIII

A GIRL COUSIN

London, 10th August, 1797.

MISS MARY CLARK,
Workington.

DEAR MARY,

Your affectionate letter of 8th ult. came duly to hand and I am a little ashamed in not having acknowledged the receipt of it ere this. The cause, however, of my not writing sooner rests with your friend, Tony Lumpkin, and not with his brother Tom. You must give me leave to tell you that my brother A. is shamefully inattentive to me on the score of letter writing. I wrote to him two months ago and again on the 30th June, both of which letters required his replying to, and last Saturday I wrote to him again and complained heavily of his negligence, and hope to hear from him to-morrow in consequence of it. Perhaps he thinks himself too busy with his concerns in the Field at this season of the year to attend to anything else and I have told him of my having an idea of his making that his excuse, but that I neither can nor will admit of it. Gentlemen farmers do not always make hay while the sun

shines. Some of them make a great waste of time and are very busy to be sure in thinking a great deal about nothing. I gave Anthony an invitation to accompany you to Town in the Spring in my letter of the 30th June, and waiting for his answer made me put off writing to you for so long, and I shall still defer putting this in the post till I can say how he is disposed respecting the proposed excursion. I flatter myself, however, he will think me entitled at last to an equal share of his attention with his horses, cows, and calves, etc. Your style of paying compliments, Mary, does you much credit, but you have no occasion in future to trouble yourself in passing many upon T. Rumney, who is a plain fellow, and by whom extreme politeness is received with a certain degree of diffidence and responded to with real awkwardness. Decency and natural civility I brought from Mellfell with me, and I have thought it right not to let the London polish interfere with my Honesty.

I am very glad to find the copy of Mr. Clark's will was so satisfactory to you, and return you my thanks for your kind wishes on my becoming possessed of the interest mentioned in it in my behalf. It will, I assure you, be very acceptable, and I hope of much advantage and comfort.

I was wrote to by Mr. Rd. Marsh, of Highworth, ten days ago on my aunt's account, and who informed me that your mother has made application to my aunt for particulars of Mr. Clark's will, and my aunt has requested that I would undertake to

give her the required information, and in order to do which I have desired my brother A. to wait on her with a copy of the will which I furnished him with some time since. Why your mother has thought it necessary to apply to Mrs. Clark for this particular information after being informed by myself of her concern and interest in the will I am at a loss to make out. Perhaps you can explain it. I trust my veracity is not doubted in the affair.

So you want to persuade me I neither ever saw you nor have any recollection of you. I can very well remember your attending the school at Watermillock, kept then, I think, by Mr. Robinson, and who, I fancy, gave you instruction in the Latin language, which was remarked as somewhat singular, both with respect to your age and sex. Since that period up to the present I have not been given to understand what were your pursuits, excepting that my uncle told me a few years back that you were where you now are. On your father's account I have frequently felt induced to make enquiry about your family, but never got any particular information. I am not insensible to the sufferings it has experienced and the cause thereof, but it is a subject of too much delicacy for me to speak to you upon at present. You and I have been sent from home to earn our bread by industry and I hope I may say that from our conduct hitherto there is no fear, if blessed with a tolerable share of health, of our meeting with success in life fully equal to the most sanguine expectation

of our relations. Prudent endeavour with perseverance will do much in the course of time. I am glad to find you are disposed to favour me with a letter every now and then and be assured I shall always be glad to hear from you, and in the Spring I still hope for the additional pleasure of seeing you. My second thoughts are a copy of my first on that hand: My brother William has already given his assent and A. I trust will not be wanting in inclination. My brother William has just suggested a new scheme which, if carried into effect, will be another strong inducement for A. to visit his brothers in the South. The young gentleman, with more spirit than modesty has applied to me for the loan of a large sum of money to assist him to purchase a Church living in the neighbourhood where he resides, and signifies his intention of joining a handsome sum to it to accomplish the business, and which can't be done, I apprehend, without marrying the lady whom he looks up to to furnish it, and with whom I heartily wish he may become partner for life, for I have heard a very good account both of her ownself and her connections. She lives in Warwickshire and he has been acquainted with her at least two years. She does not enjoy a very good state of health, I fancy, and is now from home on that account at Buxton in Derbyshire. He has wrote to me for my ideas on the matter, and I have given him them very freely in favour of the match and I hope he will be the more earnest on that account in bringing

the matter to a speedy conclusion. Cousin Bab Wreaks you say is married. I rejoice to hear it and both hope and trust she has accomplished it under the most desirable and happy circumstances, but you do not mention the name of her husband, his profession, circumstances, etc.

I begin to feel ashamed to see my relations getting married on every side and myself an old bachelor standing still. The fact is, however, I have never once made the smallest attempt to change my condition, and that has been the case from never having had the means before now from a pecuniary point of view of enjoying any comfort in it. My brother William told me in a letter I had from him lately that he had a Girl in his eye for me, and as you give me leave to hope I may stand in the way of chance on your account I flatter myself I may yet be blessed with the comfort of a Female Companion for Domestic society, and which I do assure you I look to the country to produce for me. London lasses are not calculated for a Mellfellite Economist.

Friday, 18th August.—This morning a letter is come to hand from the roundabout Esq. of Mellfell, who seems to have put up with the chastisement for neglect of duty, as well as might have been expected. He talks philosophically respecting the trip to London, and does not say he will come let what will happen, but makes no particular objection, and I fancy only requires a little female courtship to make him happy in the idea of it, and which I beg

now to entrust to your management. Pray, do you ever exchange a letter with him? I recommend your giving him a challenge upon this business, and I will be your second if you require me. One-third of the Dead Year, so call'd is now expired, and I hope the other two-thirds will pass away without anything transpiring to interrupt our having a happy meeting at the time proposed, and I beg leave thus early to notice to you that it is by no means my wish that you should incur any expense that you can avoid on my account, for as I have already told you I am a plain domestic old bachelor, and I have a worthy brother bachelor in my apartments, whom I fancy you know, as he speaks of having seen you at Penrith some years ago. His name is Carleton, whose family I daresay you know if not acquainted with. We have been true companions ever since I came to Town, and he has been under my roof for the last two years. He says that in your looking about for a wife for me he would be glad if you would think of him at the same time. Pray give my best respects to my intended, and let me have some account of her in your next. Mr. Carleton and I will willingly use our best endeavours in procuring you a London partner (if you are so inclined) if you will do what you can for us in the country, and we beg leave to refer you to your friend Anthony for particulars of our conduct when you are required to furnish it. Pray are you upon a footing of intimacy with any of our late uncle Thomas's

children at Penrith? Sarah being married is too busy with her family concerns, I fancy, to write to me, and Sam. has in a certain degree refused to correspond with me.

I am, dear Mary, Your sincere
well-wisher and affectionate friend,
THOMAS RUMNEY.

London, 25th August, 1797.

REV. W. RUMNEY.

(Summary.)

Performance in giving account of what my brother said when he might write, whom a letter was received from a week ago. Thought A. very reserved and he signified his money and also sister Bab's to be engaged to pay off mortgages on land—that A. has declined to say anything more to his mother about money matters—that I did not think him situated to speak to her to a good effect and that I might perhaps take occasion ere long to speak to her myself for my government in the Spring when the legacies fall due—that I thought my mother likely to give the discharge for my sister's legacy—told him what A. said about the affair between Miss Holyoak and him—that A. did not promise that he would come up to Town in the Spring—that I still hoped to see my friends at the time proposed—that I was anxious to know how his ideas went respecting the business lately suggested to me, but particularly with respect to Miss Holyoak herself—that

my thoughts were as I had given them in my last to him—and that I thought both him and me ought to get married as soon as we prudently could—that I had received a letter from the Rev. J. Richardson, who I was induced from his manner of writing to think favourably of—that I had now put on half mourning—no account from Highworth. Since writing the foregoing a letter came to hand from him dated yesterday the 24th. In reply to it I told him I was obliged to him for furnishing me with the particulars of the purchase from Mr. Biddle, but I was so far incapable of judging of the real nature of it—as to have little to say in recommending him to close the bargain—that I recommended his borrowing money of his neighbouring farmers at 5 % in preference to laying himself under obligation to his family—that I believe Mr. Blackburn lived in Lancaster and had sons in Cannon Street to whom I was not known—that I looked to Miss Holyoak's return for the final arrangement of the most principal concern, and should be glad to hear the result of it.

London, 2nd September, 1797.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

DEAR BROTHER,

You seem to ask for the use of my money with a long face. Enclosed is £5 borrowed of Mr. C., for I have not got it in my pocket. I have

lately given away 4 guineas to save a wretched object from total destruction. The Artillery Company has cost me a large sum, and including my advance to you I have to tell you that my outgoings within the last six months have been full £50. I did think of saving a few pounds this year out of my salary, but my happiness in that idea is now completely cut off. Another year I'm determined to look entirely to myself, and if I can meet with a prudent woman to make a wife of, I will walk to church with her. I must confess I am not sorry to hear of your sickening a little upon the proposed purchase. My raw ideas are not in favour of it at present. A snug curacy and warm house, if not very large, is pleasanter for me to hear of. I am glad to hear that Miss Holyoak's health is improved, and wish her quite well with all my heart, and on her return to Morton I hope the whole of the business will be arranged in such a manner as to give us all real reason to rejoice. Miss H. is in my opinion to you an acquisition too valuable to let slip through your fingers, and if I did not think you in earnest in endeavouring to make her your wife, I should perhaps be as sulky with you, as you represent A. to be. I lend you the enclosed £5 upon the very grounds of the connection coming to a speedy issue, and I beg to be informed of your proceedings.

I have neither time nor temper to make a reply to certain parts of your letter, which contains

sentiments extremely rough, Master Billy. I do not wish you to be quite so severe upon your relations, for, mind, I am one of them, and I am not sure whether I may not consider myself implicated in some shape or other in the charges you tax them with. Londoners are very susceptible and your brother Tom is accustomed to posting up Debtor and Creditor.

London, 9th September, 1797.

MRS. MARY RUMNEY.

MY DEAR MOTHER,

In looking into my letter book I observe it is between 3 and 4 months since I did myself the pleasure to write to you, and that letter I see consisted of two sheets, and contained a very faithful and detailed account respecting matters generally, but particularly the effect produced in consequence of my poor uncle and sister's death. The information given you in that letter and the desire I expressed to have a letter from you would, I should have thought, induced you to have obliged me before this time. You must allow me to say that I am very conscientious of having at all times conducted myself towards you, your poor brother deceased, and every individual of our family with modesty, civility, and unremitted attention, and I think I may pay myself the compliment also in saying that I apprehend you have not had a child that has caused you less trouble and expense than

myself, or that has used a better endeavour to earn honest bread and be a credit to the family. My dear uncle is no longer here to speak for me, but I, however, hope that you will not treat me with so much neglect and indifference as to deprive me of ever having a letter from you while you are in health to do it. I have always accustomed myself to write to you as cheerful as possible, and not to make you uneasy with complaints that are common to be told to parents by their children when from home. I have, however, had my share of difficulties as well as others to contend with. Having the business of two West India Merchants to conduct now, my prospect of coming to Mellfell to see you is entirely cut off, and God only knows when it may be in my power to have that gratification but still hope it will happen in your time.

Out of respect to Mrs. Clark of Highworth I write to her every now and then, and I shall continue so to do from a sense of its being a duty I owe to her on my uncle's account. I have received a letter from her Family a few days since which mentions her having been very poorly latterly, but yesterday something better. I am sorry to hear of her having been applied to by Mrs. Clark of Penrith for particulars of Mr. Clark's will after having been informed by myself of her and her family's concern and interest in it. I understand, however, that she did it at the instigation of Mr. Sam Clark, who in different instances has discovered to me a want of politeness. In the Spring when the

legacies fall due I presume Mrs. Clark of Highworth will look up to me to furnish her with the receipts for the discharge of the legacies from all Mr. Clark's relations concerned, and as the Stock must be taken at the price of the very day on which they fall due, I should like to be fully prepared against that day to settle the whole of the business, and in order to do which proper legacy stamps which are now very high must be had and a receipt given by each for their respective demand, and afterwards sent up to me to be delivered. Pray who is to give a discharge for my poor sister Elizabeth's? I have not asked the question from supposing that you know. Her other effects I should be glad to know how you have considered should be settled. I trust you do not suppose these impertinent questions, for believe me they are not meant to give the least offence. Such occurrences are new to me and all I want is information respecting them. I could take an opinion here, but I do not like to ask questions of such a nature.

I have now something to say about my brother William, whose spirit and way of thinking as well as want of money is too much in the usual manner. In my last I gave you a good account of him; I wish I could continue it, but I cannot from discovering every now and then more spirit than prudence, but we must not quarrel with him until the business he is now upon comes to some determination. He is in strict pursuit of a wife with a

fortune of £2000, and in order to see him a settled man and freed from pecuniary difficulties I am induced to incourage it earnestly. The lady is now at Buxton in Derbyshire, and a few days ago I sent him £5 for expenses to go and see her, and I fancy she will return with him and I hope they will be married in the course of a few months. He has had it in contemplation to purchase a living which would take more than the lady's fortune, but I shall continue to set my face against it. The times are too precarious for him to meddle with such a large concern. By and bye the times may be better and he will always have an opportunity of laying out his money. I find he has lately applied to his brother Anthony for money, who has excused himself, so has applied again to his good-natured brother Tom, who he has put to inconvenience for the present and which will be the case for about a month. I trust a relapse of the dreadful malady which seized him a few years since will never visit him, but has ever since it happened been an affliction upon my spirits, and I have always thought it right to use delicacy, and I hope if ever you write to him you will observe it also. I once heard of your having wrote to him in a rough, harsh, manner, which alarmed me exceedingly, as since his valuable uncle is no more there is nobody to pay extraordinary expenses. I am very willing to find him temporary assistance which I have long been in the habit of, and I am freely disposed to be of service to my family, if treated in a becoming manner.

But in looking towards them it is a duty I owe to myself to cast an eye to my own prospects and concerns. I may by and bye think it right to be a married man, and then I must endeavour to stand firm and at ease upon my own legs. London wives are very expensive and not very industrious, which are habits I have a downright hatred against, and a wife of such a disposition would be a plague instead of a comfort to me. I am so much tied by the leg to my desk that I cannot see when I shall have an opportunity of stepping out of London to see my relations, and having a great desire to be gratified therewith I have proposed to some of them their favouring me with a visit in the Spring, when the legacies fall due in April. Those invited are my two brothers and Mary Clark of Workington, who appears to me to be a very clever, sensible, young woman, and which added to the good opinion my poor uncle seems to have had of her has induced me to give her an opportunity of seeing the Metropolis. My brother A. gives her an excellent character, and if I did not think her a girl of real merit and prudence I should have no wish to see her here. The scheme will be attended with expenses rather heavy, but as I am the promoter of it, I must expect to bear the heaviest share. When you do me the favour of writing to me which I earnestly hope will be soon, I will thank you to give me a hint what quantity and quality of tea and sugar you would like to have sent on or before Xmas next. I have put by a few pounds of very nice

moist sugar, and if you will accept of it it is very much at your service. I will send my old cloaths as usual for the use of my sister's boys, but have not a large assortment this year. The prospect of the blessing of peace being restored to us in the course of a couple of months is kept alive, and I hope we shall not have to wait for the desirable event any longer. If we should not, however, have it before our legacies are due, Stocks will be so low that I should recommend each of you to let your proportion remain where it is, and receive the interest from it, which is payable every half-year, viz. in April and October. I hope you enjoy pretty good health and spirits, which is the sincere wish of your dutiful and affectionate son

THOMAS RUMNEY.

Pray give my respects to my brother A. and tell him I will answer his letter as soon as I can give him any cheerful information respecting his brother William. I never hear from my sisters. I hope they are quite well.

London, 16th September, 1797.

MRS. POWELL,
Highworth, Wilts.

DEAR MADAM,

I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of and thank you for your kind favour of the 23rd ult., which Mr. Wells was so obliging as to hand to me. I was exceedingly sorry to learn by your letter as

well as from Mr. Wells that my aunt had been so much indisposed, but glad to find that on the day you wrote there was a favourable change, and I hope she will soon get quite well and continue in good health, and that her spirits are better than usual. The business with Mr. Jones I hope is finally settled and upon more pleasing terms than you seemed to expect. I should be quite sorry to hear of my aunt being imposed upon or drawn into any litigation in the concern. I am glad the fenders got safe to hand and were approved of. I shall be very glad to see Mr. Powell in Town, and I will thank you to give my best respects to him and tell him so. Your account of my aunt's bees is very pleasing and I am much obliged by the kind intention of my becoming a partaker of their industry. I have mentioned your very kind enquiry after my brother to him and he has desired I would make a return of compliments. I have the pleasure to say he seems in sound health and spirits, and I hope in a way to be comfortable in a domestic state. I earnestly wish he may be successful in obtaining the object he is in pursuit of. Perhaps my aunt may be glad to hear that his intentions and affections revive towards Miss Holyoak.

The credit I allow to my friends at Highworth has no limits, and I hope never will so long as my circumstances will afford it. I thank you for the information respecting Sam. Clark, and am very sorry you have had so glaring a proof of his

simpleness and indelicacy. One of his sisters, I am informed, is in so bad a state of health as not to be expected to recover. Her name is Barbara, I fancy, about 26 years old. I am sorry I can't give you any information of consequence respecting Mr. Charles Jones. He still lives at Edmonton, I believe, and continues to amuse himself in the usual way. He and his brother Richard are far from being upon terms of friendship, I understand.

Your father, I hope, is quite recovered, to whom pray give my best respects and to the whole family. Please also to present my duty and kindest wishes to my obliging aunt, and believe me, dear madam,

Your very much obliged and
obedient servt.

THOS. RUMNEY.

London, 18th September, 1797.

MAJOR LINDSAY,
55th Regiment Foot, Horsham.

SIR,

I beg leave to return you my best thanks for the trouble you have taken in furnishing me with a certificate of John Keen's death, which I am sorry to say, however, does not enable me to succeed in procuring anything for his widow. The Secretary to the Humane Society has recommended to me my making a second application to you to get informed what service J. Keen was last

upon, and if he died in consequence of indisposition received in the Regiment, for he says as he died at Burslem in Staffordshire and not abroad, and the cause of his death not being known, he cannot take upon him to say that the widow is a proper object of charity for their Society to make an allowance to. If you can say anything as to the cause of Keen's death in behalf of the widow in this instance, and will take the further trouble to give me information of it, I shall be very much obliged to you,

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient and obliged
humble servt.

THOS. RUMNEY.

London, 25th September, 1797.

REV. MR. RICHARDSON,
Burslem, Staffordshire.

(Summary.)

Remitted him £11 in Bank Notes on account of widows Keen and Ball—Balance due to me out of it 5/2—told him of all my trouble in procuring it by writing to the officers etc.—asked him to acknowledge the receipt of the money.

CHAPTER XIV

CRESCENDO

London, 30th September, 1797.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

(Summary.)

Acknowledged the receipt of his letter of the 6th inst.—told him furniture was to be had at a reasonable rate in London for ready money only—that I had an intention of getting married soon myself, and supposed he would know that I had paid off Mr. Carleton and Mrs. Leeks, which had taken away my pocket money—that I had more to pay at Xmas—and should not part with any money, so long as I had thoughts of getting married—inclosed him my mother's letter and asked him to explain about money matters—told him of having wrote to the Rev. Mr. Richardson and sent him £11 for the soldiers' widows—told him Stocks were very low—Consols 48—told him cousin Bab. Clark at Penrith was very bad and not likely to recover—told him the shipping business was commenced and I should be hurried for two months to come—told him I should expect to hear soon about his excursion to Buxton—that I had left Mrs. Mason's, Pentonville.

Old South-Sea House, 4th Oct., 1797.

MR. ROBERT PEDDER,

No. 1, Great George Street, Minorities.

SIR,

In consequence of your letter (of information respecting the arrival of a ship from Hamburgh) of the 3rd inst. addressed to Messrs. *Johnston* of the Old South-Sea House being opened by Mr. *Godschall Johnson* of that place, and not belonging to him, I took upon myself the trouble this morning of returning it to you, supposing it to be of consequence. I gave a young man in your Compting House a full explanation of the mistake and told him I had paid a penny for the postage of it, which I should be glad to be repaid. He observed with a very marked degree of indifference that he had not one, which induced me to ask him if he could borrow it, and he said, No, he did not know where. I then told him emphatically that I supposed Mr. *Johnson* must be out of pocket the penny, and I must have no thanks for my willingness to serve you, and to which he made no reply. A more glaring instance of incivility from a clerk in office I never met with, and in order to do what I conceive justice both to you and him I have thought it my duty to give you a statement of the young man's behaviour. The *id.* is by no means an object, and I do not wish you to take the trouble of making any apology.

I am,

Your obedient humble servt.

THOS. RUMNEY.

London, 7th October, 1797.

MR. A. RUMNEY.

DEAR BROTHER,

Having an opportunity of replying to your letter dated 13th Aug. without incurring the expense of postage, I am glad to embrace it. I promised in my letter to my mother on the 9th of Sept. that I would write to you as soon as I was enabled to say anything cheerful respecting the proceedings of our brother Wm., but which I am not now in a position to do, as he has not wrote to me lately. I recommended his withdrawing his intention of becoming a purchaser of the costly living in a hasty manner and I fancy it stands postponed at present. I wrote to him a week since and enquired how he went on respecting Miss Holyoak and expect his answer in a few days, and I earnestly hope it will be of a favourable nature. Since you refused to assist him with money he has had £5 of me more to enable him to follow up his matrimonial pursuits, and I trust he will at last be successful. I have more reasons than one for wishing to see him a married man. I wrote my mother a very long letter on 9 September and requested an answer, which I have the satisfaction to find myself obliged with, and which has been complied with without loss of time. I am sorry it is not at hand for me to point out some remarks upon. I have sent it to my brother William for his information and government respecting money matters, which she has given me

a sketch of, but I do not understand it, and I am so wearied with putting questions upon the subject that I shall not be quite so troublesome to my friends in future. My enquiries have always been of a harmless nature I believe, however they might be taken. My strictness of attention and punctuality to my relations actually appears to be construed into mean insinuation and improper design, which is cruelty. My mother has a strong idea of my being thoughtless and extravagant, but she is grossly mistaken and I shall tell her so. I, however, commend her for recommending her children to attend to economy, but she should not find fault with their conduct without a reason. Her letter to me upon the whole is civil and I am much pleased with her having taken the trouble of writing to me at all. She mentions your being at great expense with repairs and improvements upon your estate, which makes you poor in pocket. She tells me of having had a thought of going to Penrith to live this year, but the wet weather has prevented her making the arrangement. I am sorry for her and you can adopt no means of being somewhat more familiar and sociable. I think if I was in your place I would take conversation with her in common without suffering myself to feel mortified or out of temper. I am well aware there is much difficulty in living comfortably with her, but use the greatest degree of mildness and philosophy you can. There are odd people and strange tempers to cope with from

home as well as at home I can assure you, and with such characters reservedness and quarrelling I have always observed to be the worst plan. To have peace continued we must make a little sacrifice with willingness. My mother says she is better in health than she has been for the last two years, which is a very pleasant hearing. She disapproves entirely of my having invited you, Wm., and Mary Clark to come to London in the Spring, and if I find you all averse to its taking place, I certainly can have no real pleasure in encouraging your paying me the compliment. I never would have proposed such a thing if I had thought it possible for me to have come into Cumberland within any reasonable period of time. Indeed it appears I never shall have that much wished for happiness, and I think you must all know what degree of true affection and attachment I have for every branch of our family, and I am willing to adopt every means in my power to be a credit to it. You have not told me whether you approve or disapprove of my having asked Mary Clark to come to see the Metropolis. It appears she declines the undertaking if you will not accompany her. My mother had surprised me by saying that she was too proud to continue the school she had undertaken the care of, and also adds that the family at Penrith are all very idle. This information induces me to ask you more particularly about her, for I do not wish to fall into any blame or disgrace on her account, I assure

you. I am by her letters to me impressed beyond a doubt that she is possessed both of good sense and good behaviour, yet she may not be the person I wish to see here, as I know nothing of her personal appearance not having seen her since she was 8 or 10 years old. You have already said her features are pleasing, but pray how tall is she and is she inclined to be thin or lusty, and is she upon the whole a genteel figure and has she a good taste for dress? Is she at all like any of our sisters or my cousins at Penrith? I have recommended her to apply to you for your determination respecting the trip to London. I wrote to her nearly two months ago and have not heard from her since. I told her about her mother having applied to Mrs. Clark about the will, and asked her if she could account for her doing so, which I had thought extraordinary. I find, however, from Mrs. Powell, my aunt's niece, that Saml. Clark was the instigator. That must be an odd and rude behaved young fellow—is he not? Mr. Carleton had a letter from his sister C. about a fortnight ago, which mentions that his sister Bab. was so ill as not to be expected to recover, and was sorry to hear it and hope it has turned out otherwise. Pray tell me about her in your next, which I should be glad to be favoured with soon. This will be handed down by Mr. Hodge, a young man who married Miss Wright. She is in the North, I understand, and he intends her to return with him. I am now in the midst of my Autumn shipping concerns which

require unremitted attention and a sober head. I have the pleasure to tell you all goes on very well in my office. I have quitted my country lodgings on account of the hurry of business. Pray answer my little enquiries as soon as you can with convenience. If you cannot continue to give me a favourable account of Miss Clark, I must suffer a little disgrace in retreating from my engagement, which I should really be sorry for.

I remain, with my usual good wishes to you,

Your affectionate brother,

THOS. RUMNEY.

Oct. 8th, 1797. I thought when I finished the foregoing I had nothing more to speak upon either as a matter of news or which might be entertaining to you, but I have recollected that I have not informed you of Mr. Wm. Todhunter being very lately released from the King's Bench Prison under the privileges of the last Act of Parliament.

Mr. Carleton and I spent last evening in his company. He is in very good spirits and tolerable health, and seems to expect to get on in life as well as heretofore. He gave us a more full account of the time he spent in your company than I was acquainted with before, and amongst other things told us that it was cowardliness on your part that prevented Miss Brown and you making a match of it. I think you told me some time ago that the silver toothpick I sent last Xmas for my poor sister Elizabeth deceased was never

given to her and remained to be disposed of. If 'tis in your possession, pray accept it yourself. I offered to send my mother some tea and sugar at Christmas next, but she in a certain degree refuses to accept it, but if you recommend my sending some I will still do so. It is unnatural to me to withdraw my attention to her, and I wish to be kind to her as long as she lives—or I may live. Several letters have lately passed between me and the Rev. J. Richardson respecting some charity money I have undertaken to procure in London for the widows of some soldiers deceased which he asked me to do. I think him a very worthy character, and am much pleased with him for a correspondent. His brother Jimmy is out a cruising, and the Phaeton Frigate, which he is on board of, I observe by the papers has been fortunate in taking some French privateers. I expect the Frigate will come into port very soon, and hope to hear a good account of James. We have had a most extraordinary wet autumn and I am afraid it is also the case with you in Cumberland, and that your corn will be almost entirely destroyed upon the ground. Grass is very plentiful here, and a second and even a third crop of hay has been taken off near London, and still a good spring of Fog started up. We have not been able to manufacture a peace with France yet, and I am afraid it will not be done just yet. In the month of August 1796 I took much pains to draw out a long list of questions for you to write answers against, respecting a variety of matters concerning

the Family, respecting also the parish of Watermill-lock generally, and which I never forwarded. It has this very moment entered my head that I have such a thing by me, and that this will be a favourable opportunity of conveying it to you, and when you are at leisure to fill up the blanks I will thank you to do it, but you must not put me to the expense of returning it by post, but wait an opportunity offering similar to the present, or keep it by you till you come yourself. I have wrote a pretty long letter to my mother, and I hope it will please her. It is enclosed under cover to you sealed up. We have had our Compting House fresh done up and which is made much more comfortable to me. You mentioned some time ago a wish to have some silver teaspoons etc. from London, but I presume you are not in immediate want of them, and if you determine to come up in the spring perhaps it will be in time then to make the purchase. I have not time, however, to execute the commission at present. Mr. Carleton and Mr. Todhunter send their compliments to you, and I remain as before.

Sent per Mr. Hodge.

London, 8th Oct., 1797.

MRS. MARY RUMNEY.

DEAR MOTHER,

Having an opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your very acceptable letter without incurring the expense of postage, I am very glad

to embrace it. I really was quite rejoiced and felt a peculiar pleasure in being favoured with so long a letter from you, and I am much obliged by the information you have given me generally. Your statement respecting money matters I do not understand very clearly, but I shall not plague you with any further enquiries. I presume you will arrange those things to your own entire satisfaction, and in doing which I shall be entirely satisfied. Whatever I do or may have said about family matters of this kind, I wish not to have construed into a busy or impertinent interference. My reporting to all around me here that my mother thought me extravagant has been smiled at much, and we are all puzzled to make it out how you can possibly find a reason for entertaining such an idea and recommend you not being quite so willing to find fault with your son Tom, whose conduct is rather exemplary than otherwise. My salary from my two employers and the interest of my money in the Bank of England puts it into my power to drop something pretty into the Bank every year, and I do so, and am resolved to continue the plan whatever change I may think proper to make in my pursuits in life, even if I should get married, I shall not allow myself to disburse the whole of my income. I have lived long enough to find that there is no real enjoyment out of the bounds of moderation, and I hope to always have it for a guide. You seem to set your face against my proposed plan of having my friends

to see me here in the ensuing Spring, but I think if you could be persuaded to have a true understanding of the attachment and affection I have for my own relatives, you could not find in your heart to deny my having the gratification I wish for in this instance. It is 14 long years since I left home, and such is my situation I am now seated in, that it gives me no prospect of having the wished for happiness of seeing it for 14 more years to come, which amounts to almost an entire banishment from my place of nativity. You, yourself, are the first I could wish to see, the next stand my brothers and sisters, then my aunt at Highworth with all the offspring of my own family behind, but such is the situation of things as prevents my coming to you or your coming to me. The same is the case with respect to my dear sisters, my aunt at Highworth and others. My two brothers can pay me the compliment of coming to see me if they have so much regard for me, and I have no wish to force them or pick money out of their pockets. As to this young woman, Mary Clark, she is the only female branch in our family that seems to me situated or calculated for the purpose, and I am induced to believe from the very manner in which she writes her letters, and from my late uncle's own account of her, as well as from his having complimented her in his will that she is a person of real merit, good understanding, and amiable accomplishments, and that her information added to my brother A.'s

respecting things of a general as well as a particular nature at and about my dear native spot, as well as in and near the County of Cumberland, will satisfy me fully respecting all my anxiety on that head. And I expect some pleasure too in showing my friends here that I am not entirely without some relatives of decency to acknowledge me. If Mary Clark has more pride than prudence I fancy I shall have my eyes and ears open to it, and my treatment to her will be shown accordingly. I am sorry to hear of the rest pursuing a life of idleness at Penrith. Their prospects of being assisted by family friends is now, I suppose, entirely at an end, and I hope they will look to themselves and get into a right way of both thinking and acting, if they have been suffering by entertaining false hopes. I fancy you are wrong in supposing the legacy stamps to be charged as much for £200 4 % as if £200 hard money. I have not made the enquiry but have no doubt that the charge will be so much per cent. upon the real value of the Stock on the day it is due to the Legatees. I have not heard from Highworth since I wrote to you last, but I expect Mr. Powell, who is Mrs. Clark's nephew-in-law in Town very soon, and I have acquainted him of my having a wish to see him. I have nothing particularly new to inform you of respecting my brother William. I expect to hear from him in the course of a few days. He is at all times a concern upon my mind that is far from pleasant,

but, as I said to you before, I do not wish him to be told so.

You surprise me in speaking of my brother Anthony's outgoings, but if the value is not in cash in his pocket, it must be considered to be in the estate. I am not aware that he can have either difficulty, or objection to settle the matters you allude to at a proper period. I wish you and him could anyhow hit upon a plan more comfortable to yourself, for to me it is almost alarming to hear of your living under the same roof, so reserved and unsociable as you speak of. I am much rejoiced to hear you have recovered your health so well, and heartily wish you a lasting enjoyment of it. If you should change your mind and wish for a little tea and sugar about Christmas I will send it you with pleasure.

With all due respect and every kind wish towards you,

I remain, my dear mother,

Your dutiful and affectionate son,

THOS. RUMNEY.

Sent per Mr. Hodge.

London, 11th October, 1797.

REV. MR. RICHARDSON.

DEAR SIR,

I wrote to you on the 25th ult. and enclosed you £11 in bank notes on account of widows Keen and Ball, and which I hope got safe to hand, but as

I requested you to favour me with a few lines acknowledging the receipt of it, and not yet being in possession thereof, I have my doubts if the money has reached you. To hear that the Charity purse has been plundered will be very affecting to your faithful and obedient servant,

THOS. RUMNEY.

CHAPTER XV

A PRESSING INVITATION

London, 21st October, 1797.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

(Summary.)

Told him I supposed the £5 sent him to pay his expenses to Buxton would have been returned as he did not use it for that particular purpose—that I was glad to hear of what had transpired between him and Mr. Holyoak—and that Miss H. was so much improved in her health—told him of Powell being in town from Highworth—about Mrs. Clark's present to me, etc.—that I was not afraid of putting my spare money into the Bank on account of the security of it, which seemed to be doubted by some of his neighbours—

Asked him what he had said to his mother—

Wished him to furnish me with the answer of Mr. Francis Holyoak to his sister respecting himself—that I was too much hurried with Co. Ho. business to tell him anything about who I intended to have for a wife.

London, 30th October, 1797.

MISS MARY CLARK,
Workington.

I now sit down to acknowledge the receipt of and thank you for your favour of the 17th inst., which reached me on the 23rd. Give me leave to tell you that I had supposed from your long silence, that my letter of the 18th August had not been delivered to you. I am sorry to find you had been at so much trouble in making the enquiry of your mother respecting the application to Mrs. Clark about the will. Saml. Clark's having had a hand in it partly accounts to me why it might be ill-timed, for I have not a favourable opinion of that young man's behaviour. I gave him an opportunity of commencing a correspondence with me some time ago, but he did not so much as acknowledge the offer. It seems you, too, have nothing to do with him or any of the Family, and I am not aware that it either is or may be of any consequence to us. I am glad to hear your brother John was well in health when you heard from him, and I hope he will continue well, and be fortunate in his situation. Pray what capacity is he in on board the Carnatic and when do you expect him to return to England? Poor Candidus I had I assure you a true regard for and thought him a very promising youth. I fancy he quitted the West Indiaman in the River Thames here and not at Jamaica as your brother has informed you. The account you

give of your sister in Dublin is satisfactory and I hope she will prosper in her situation. My cousins of the name of Martin who are Clergymen I hold no correspondence with, nor never did. I presume they are all doing well, but I am not acquainted with any particulars respecting them, and there are many other near relations of mine of whom I have but a very slight knowledge.

I am in daily expectation of hearing some particulars respecting my brother William's courtship affair. He has not engaged in the proposed purchase yet, and I have not the wish at present to hear of his closing a bargain of such magnitude. In his last letter he informed me of his having had an interview with his intended papa and mamma, who, I understand, have no objection to receive him into the Family, but Miss's brother, a gentleman of some consequence, is to be consulted for the sake of his attention. He is to be with his parents the principal part of the ensuing month, and I hope it will be productive of at least the outlines of the whole arrangement, and when I am in possession of any material information concerning the business I will hand it down to you.

Your information respecting my brother Anthony has given me no common degree of concern. His silence to you I am ashamed of. It, however, I think, amounts to a proof that he is not freely inclined to make his appearance here in the Spring, which staggers me a little on your account, as you told me some time back you were

not disposed to come without him. I certainly have no wish and should be sorry to drag him from home against his inclination, but having proposed the scheme to you, and which I did in earnest, I should be exceedingly hurt to have it so far frustrated as to be deprived of the satisfaction of seeing your own self, a matter I beg leave to say between our selves that has occupied a certain degree of my attention ever since I first mentioned it. I really believe Anthony had rather be excused coming to London a third time for the present, and if I knew how to get over it's being a bar to your coming I would set him free at once. Perhaps you can find a substitute, or by some means contrive to undertake the journey without either difficulty or impropriety. Although you have no personal knowledge of me I both hope and trust you have such an opinion of my honour, veracity and integrity as not to be under the smallest apprehension of your character receiving the least real harm from visiting me. Sometimes a thought strikes me that if you have not an aversion to being transplanted a situation might be met with in this quarter equally profitable and comfortable to the one you now hold, and if you have any speculative ideas upon this head, pray let me know it. Be assured I should be very happy in promoting your interest and welfare, and in the matter I have just alluded to or in any other prudent undertaking I am disposed to give you a proof of it. Our acquaintance with each other is so very young and not

being personal makes it awkward to speak to you as I could wish. You will discover how much I wish to mature our acquaintance by my familiarity and I flatter myself I shall find you have no objection to encourage it. My knowledge of you extends no further than what I am able to collect from the few letters you have wrote to me from which, however, I am inclined to think very favourably of your conduct. My own little success in life has been purchased by real merit and industry, and I am inclined to give you credit upon the same score. Success after a continued pursuit of honest endeavour is quite a cordial to a virtuous mind, and I hope all my dear friends partake of that comfort.

The assistance you so obligingly offered me of effecting a change of my condition in life some time ago I beg leave to repeat my thanks for, and as to the claim I made on you in behalf of Friend Carleton I have now to tell you I entirely relinquish, partly on account of its being an awkward commission for you, and partly from discovering in him no warmth of disposition to enter upon such a speculation in pursuit of happiness. He and I enter into a smart argument every now and then upon the subject which I often think would be very entertaining to a bystander. Having withdrawn my claim on you on his behalf, I do not wish you to believe that I release you with regard to myself. No, no, Mary, you must perform your promise. At present you are my only dependence. My brother William offered his helping

hand, but his disposition and mine differ so widely as to the objects of consideration upon the business that I have almost given up the hope of his being of any real use to me.

I hope you will favour me with a reply to the different matters I have suggested for your consideration the first opportunity. If both you and my brother A. decline paying me the proposed visit in the ensuing Spring I shall save my brother William the expense and trouble, also I think it necessary for my own government to be informed ere long the conclusion you have come to. Perhaps A. has by this time given you an answer to your enquiries upon the subject.

I have been exceedingly hurried for the last three weeks in shipping plantation stores to the West Indias, and am just now closing the invoices amounting to nearly £5000, having had no assistance in going through the whole concern. I have experienced much perplexity and fatigue I can assure you. This sort of business falls to my lot twice in the year, viz. in the Spring and Autumn. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Trevanion, both West India Merchants whom I am employed by, are out of Town—the former at Rumsey in Hants., the latter at Dover, which he represents in Parliament. With best wishes for your health and welfare

I am, my dear Mary,

Your affectionate humble servt.

THOS. RUMNEY.

London, 2nd November, 1797.

MRS. JANE CLARK,
Highworth, Wilts.

MY DEAR AUNT,

I return you my sincere thanks for your kind present of a pot of Honey and a Cheese which I have the pleasure to say I received in very good order three weeks since. The Cake of Bees' Wax I have just disposed of for $8/5\frac{1}{2}$ weighing 4 lbs. 10 oz. at $1/10$ per lb., which I am afraid you will think a miserable bad price, but my keen fellow citizens would not allow me more for a small quantity. I have had the spoons alter'd by the person who engraved my watch seal, and who has been so good-natured as to make me a present of his trouble. Mr. Powell's time has been so much taken up with his own private business that I have not had the pleasure of much of his company. I took up the money that you gave a draft for upon Mr. Rutter, at which time I was sorry to understand from Mr. Morris that the balance in your favour was only £2, and which happened he said from the Dividends not having been taken up at the Bank, in consequence of Mr. Rutter's having left London before your Power of Attorney reached him. At Mr. Powell's request I have just made the enquiry if he is yet returned, and was told by his nephew that he is expected home in the course of a fortnight.

I shall write to my brother William in a day or two and will make a particular enquiry of him about the two volumes of Franklin's sermons. I have received of Mr. Powell the difference between the cost of the fenders and the produce of the wax, which, I believe, makes you and I quite square respecting money transactions. A West India Captain having just sent in a dozen of Old Rum as a present has induced me to send you a couple of bottles which, with a small bag of my best samples of sugar and the $\frac{1}{2}$ peck of split peas which were given me, I must beg your acceptance of. In the basket those things are packed in, are the spoons and I hope you will receive the whole safe. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Trevanion are both out of town—the former is at Lord Palmerston's in Hants., the latter at Dover. I have much satisfaction in being able to say everything goes on well between those gentlemen and me. I have just finished a large shipment of Plantation Stores for them for the West Indies, amounting to nearly £5000, and having had the whole concern of it entirely upon my own hands I have I assure you experienced much fatigue and perplexity in it. The last account I had from my mother was very favourable respecting her health. Poor woman, I am very much inclined to go down to see her, but situated as I now am it is impossible, and God only knows when it may be in my power to have that wish gratified. I am very glad to understand by Mr. Powell that you are tolerably well in both health and spirits, which invaluable blessings

I do most sincerely wish you a perfect enjoyment
of, and remain, my dear friend

Your dutiful and affectionate nephew,

THOS. RUMNEY.

Sent by Mr. Powell, 7th October.

London, 4th November, 1797.

MR. A. RUMNEY.

(Summary.)

Wrote to him fully respecting my motives for wishing to see Miss Clark in London in the Spring—recommended his going to see her at Workington respecting it, and requested him not to lose any time in so doing, and that he would give me all the information respecting her he possibly could and soon—gave him some information respecting the legacies etc.

London, 7th November, 1797.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

(Summary.)

Told him of a cure for his mare's eye—about Anthony respecting legacies—and the proposed visit to me in the Spring—the affair respecting Miss H.—my hopes for his early success in it—Anthony's intention to bring some ladies to London—my idea upon it.

Franked by Trevanion.

London, 11th November, 1797.

MISS MARY CLARK,
Workington.

DEAR MARY,

I have just received yours replying to mine of the 30th October, and thank you for your attention. Since my last to you I have received one from my brother Anthony, and from what he has told me and the answer I have given him I feel induced to give you immediate information thereof that you may govern yourself accordingly.

The Honble. gentleman says—"Miss Clark has wrote to me to know what I intend doing about coming to see you in the Spring. I do not know what answer to make, but think of going to have some talk with her about it."

From the matter standing in this position I have recommended his embracing the first opportunity of paying his respects to you, and I have no doubt of your arranging the business without any sort of difficulty, and I have desired him to let you know the result of the meeting, and I beg I may hear from you also. If he should determine to accompany you (a thing I do not wish him to be urged to do) perhaps one more female may be sufficient for him to attend to on the journey, but if he seems to wish to have a third included, Mr. Carleton has promised to be very active in giving him his assistance while here.

We live at present in an old mansion sufficient

to accommodate any moderate number of our sociable friends and we are perfectly willing to exert our endeavours to make those comfortable who may be pleased to look in upon us.

I hope you are not under any apprehension of putting me to any inconvenience in receiving you. I observe what you say respecting my not being disappointed of seeing you in case my brother A. should not offer himself as a convoy for you, and I anticipate it with a certain degree of satisfaction. As to any new idea seizing me respecting the object of the scheme, I can hardly be so false to myself as to make a secret of it to you.

The original spring of my particular notice towards you I acknowledge to have taken place upon the very same grounds that you say has been your inducement per contra and an interview will probably soon determine how far and to what pitch it may be prudent to encourage it.

Perhaps Anthony will be with you by the time this reaches you. If you think it prudent or conceive it to be of any use his seeing this rough letter, you have my leave to lay it before him, I remain

Your sincere friend and well-wisher (in haste)

THOS. RUMNEY.

CHAPTER XVI

LECTURES ON ECONOMY

London, 25th November, 1797.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

MY DEAR SIR,

On the 7th inst. I prepared a letter to you, and on Mr. Trevanion coming up to my desk I asked him to direct it to you. He told me he could not with propriety do it himself, but would get it done and sent off by that night's post, and I hope he made good that promise. This I write at my brother A.'s request to inform you that your cousin Sarah Hodgson's husband died on the 2nd inst. aged 36 years after, I fancy, a long indisposition brought on by intemperance—a fashion too common with young men in general. Anthony's letter came yesterday and I wrote Sarah a letter of condolence last night. It seems the funeral was properly conducted, and the poor young man's relations, friends, and acquaintances both lament and regret his being call'd away from them so soon, much. As a mournful event in our family I beg leave to condole with you. A. does not know in what circumstances Sarah is left, or if

she intends carrying on the business of her late husband.

I understand by his letter that you have requested your mother to send you £10 at present and to be informed of her intentions about certain money matters that come under her immediate command. A. says she does not say anything about sending the £10, but mutters something about letting you share in the £200 (Stock I fancy) coming to her in the spring, about which he observes she must write to you herself.

Are you copying the example of our great Financier here? Our Minister Billy reminds me of another M. B. and the present plans of both seem in a great degree similar. The Budget of our Minister at the Helm is come to light this morning, by which he appears to put on his horses very unpleasant requisition saddles with an idea, I suppose, of treating them like Asses. I hope and trust you will not suffer such conjectures to sit upon your shoulders. Peeping Tom recommends to the Billys, Pitt and Rumney to be as moderate as possible in their ways and means of drawing cash from their faithful and affectionate friends in order to avoid a complete revolt. You must, my dear boy, upon the score of friendship and candour allow me to say I am much concerned at your perpetual calls on your friends for assistance. I trust, however, you do ere this see the end to it clearly in view. I mean with regard to your matrimonial arrangement, but if that should fail I

hope and earnestly wish it may be in your power to adopt such means as to entirely free your dear friends and well-wishers from being call'd on to assist you in a pecuniary way. I will hear any reply to those remarks without sullenness, and I expect a similar treatment on your part. A. says you expect a determination to take place in a certain affair soon, and whatever it may be I wish to hear of it. A. wishes you success and is joined very sincerely in it by his brother Thomas. I have lately been at the trouble of ascertaining a true statement of my cash account, and have found it so unsatisfactory as to undertake to speak to Mr. Johnson (which I did on Thursday last) to advance my salary, and I am sorry to say I have my doubts if he will comply with my wish in any degree, for he told me he thought he paid well for the care necessary in doing his business, and went away without giving me a decided answer. The money I have lent to my friends with what I owe to tradesmen this Xmas requires a very nice management I assure you, and I am very much afraid I shall be drove to the disagreeable necessity of borrowing the money to pay for my legacy stamp in April next.

I have many speculative ideas in my head for 1798. If I am obliged to give up my apartments in the O.S.S. House, I propose residing in the country entirely, and a house or genteel lodgings must be had. If I meet with a wife, a house and a snug domestic arrangement attended with a considerable expense must be the consequence.

My uncle's donation of Stock must not nor shall not however be disturbed. My own industry with economy I most sanguinely hope will accomplish the needful. As Anthony does not open his lips about coming to see me at the proposed time in the ensuing Spring, I conclude he had rather be excused, and I shall this very day write to him and tell him I have abandoned the hope (not to say the wish) of seeing so many of my friends at that period as I had had a thought of being gratified with.

Mr. Pitt's new taxes and the present posture of public affairs deserve a consideration in this instance. I mean not a penny should be parted with by such as have their bread to procure by industry. I have given Miss Clark too much encouragement to come to be able to retract with credit to myself, and therefore shall keep up a modest pitch of gallantry towards her.

I remain Your sincere well-wisher and
affectionate brother,

THOS. RUMNEY.

London, 25th November, 1797.

MR. A. RUMNEY.

MY DEAR SIR,

Yesterday I was favoured with your letter of the 20th inst. informing me of the death of our cousin Sarah Hodgson's husband. I only knew the young man personally (sic). I am sorry his indisposition originated in intemperance, a fashion

too prevalent with young men in these days. I wrote a letter of condolence to Sarah last night. Perhaps his affairs may turn out something better than you expect. I have given the information of Mr. Hodgson's death to my brother William this day, and expressed to him my being in some degree concerned to hear of his having applied to his mother for the sum of £10, and have given him to understand that I hope he sees the end to his having occasion to apply to his Family friends for assistance. I sincerely hope with you that he will get married and be no longer troublesome to some of his friends. I am quite wearied in perpetually impoverishing myself by lending him money. My earnings will not justify my assisting him from time to time as I have done.

I wrote you a long letter this day three weeks, 4th Nov., and you do not give me the smallest reason to suppose that you have received it, at which I am exceedingly mortified and vexed. It was in answer to your enquiries respecting Mary Clark, and recommending you to have the goodness to make a point of seeing her the very first opportunity in order that you might determine about coming to London, and also that you might immediately give me a very particular account of her.—If, my dear sir, I could persuade myself that that letter did reach you in due time, and that you could suffer a letter to come to me afterwards without saying one single word on the subject of it, I would make so free with you as to say

I was sorry to witness so much coolness of attention on your part towards me, and that I should be unwilling to have you set your foot across for me in the request I made. And I have now to say that whether that letter has reached you or not I have no wish to give you the least trouble in this affair. Upon second thoughts much may be said about the inconvenience and expense it would be attended with to you coming here. If you undertook the care of two or three ladies, twenty guineas might be expended, which, in those times (when money is so very valuable), ought not to be squandered away upon schemes of pleasure. Mr. Pitt's plans of raising money are laid before the public this morning, and I assure you they are of such a nature and so considerable, that it behoves every honest person from this very hour, to be more than ever watchful in adopting economical arrangements and taking care of their money.

So you see I now set you entirely free with respect to your coming to see me *at my request* out of mere compliment. I have, however, gone so far in giving Mary Clark encouragement to come that I neither can nor will retract, and as I have reason to suppose she may be inclined to come, even alone, I shall endeavour to promote the Created wish.

I have just informed my brother William of having abandoned the proposed Spring meeting upon the grounds above mentioned, and it may

be a saving to him, which, however, may not be thought an object, as he seems not to set a proper value upon money.

The greatest favour I have now to ask of you is to write both to me and Mary Clark immediately to inform us of your determination. I have already told her that you seemed not to find it convenient and agreeable to leave home, and I did not wish you to be the least urged into the undertaking, so that she is already prepared to hear of your declining to enter upon it, and I shall write to her again in a few days, and give her a further statement of it.

I have spoke to Mr. Johnson within these few days to make an addition to my salary, but he has given me no answer yet, and I am afraid I shall not have my wish gratified. I have many ideas about fresh matters transpiring in 1798, and I look forward with sanguine hopes of their turning out fortunately. I do, however, at the same time prepare myself for mishaps, disappointments etc. In the course of next month I perhaps may send down a small bundle of old cloaths for the use of my sister's children. Pray remember me affectionately to them when opportunity serves and give my duty to my mother, and believe me

Your sincerely affectionate brother,

THOS. RUMNEY.

London, 28th Nov., 1797.

MISS MARY CLARK.

DEAR MARY,

Having had an additional proof (since I scribbled a few lines to you on the 11th inst.) of my brother A.'s indifference about coming to London, I think it necessary to give you immediate information of it. You are already informed how much I wished him to make a call on you without loss of time, and my letter to him to that effect was dated so long ago as the 4th inst., and he has wrote to me on the 20th informing me of the death of my cousin Sarah Hodgson's husband, and some other matters of but little consequence, but does not mention one word about our meeting in the Spring, at which I felt so irritated as not to be able to restrain myself from writing to him immediately and telling him what construction I put upon his coolness of attention upon the matter in Question—and I have now assured him I have neither the wish nor intention of putting him to inconvenience and expense on my account, and have desired him to send both you and me a line containing his final determination upon the Business. I told him I was inclined to suppose you would favour me with a visit provided he did not accompany you. He is now at full liberty to stop at home, and I almost wish he may conclude to do so. My brother William may remain undisturbed also. I, however, have a firm reliance on your performing your

promise. I am a little concerned to be reduced to the necessity of recommending you to come alone, but I hope you'll be able to accomplish it without much inconvenience. I trust you now see my plan to be plain and honest.

A Thousand conjectures crowd upon my mind as to the proceedings for 1798, and I should think it a blessing were you here, for me to state some of them to you.

The period of April next seems at a great distance, and the impulse of my feelings induces me to say—I wish it was next week. Should I find a further reason for wishing to see you sooner by a week or a month, would it be an objection with you to comply with it. Our acquaintance now seems so far matured as to admit of unlimited remarks being made on both sides, and I hope to find you keep pace with me.

I am so much hurried at this moment that I hope you'll excuse my saying much more. Mr. Trevanion having obliged me with a frank I am willing to make use of it, as postage is so very high now. Pray write to me soon and tell me what idea you entertain of new occurrences. I hope to be a settled Housekeeper in the course of next year, and flatter myself you will assist me in making choice of a house, etc., etc.

I am, my dear Mary,

Yours affectionately

THOS. RUMNEY.

CHAPTER XVII

A BELATED HOLIDAY

Old South-Sea House, 1st December, 1797.

GODSLL. JOHNSON ESQ.

SIR,

Having received information of my mother being much indisposed and very desirous of seeing me, if possibly convenient, I beg leave to acquaint you therewith, and I ask you for leave to absent myself from the Co. Ho. to enable me to gratify her wish. Not having seen her for nearly 15 years and her age being at least, I believe, 70 makes me feel disposed to use every effort in my power to effect a personal interview with her in this instance, and I flatter myself you will have the goodness to allow me the necessary indulgence if it can be done without inconvenience to yourself. As the Xmas holidays are so near at hand I would willingly wait till then in order that my absence might be the better dispensed with. The time I should require to be from town, I calculate would be 10 or 12 days, five of which would be taken up in travelling by the most quick conveyance, but I would willingly shorten that allowance by 2 or 3



[Photograph by Mr. J. H. Burncutt.]

LITTLE MELLFELL AND MELLFELL HOUSE.

The present house was built by Thomas Rumney: the cottage above is "The Folly."



days rather than suffer the mortifying disappointment of not going at all. I beg leave to propose rendering you such assistance in the management of anything that may occur at the Co. Ho. as I conceive can't make my absence materially felt for so short a time (sic). Mr. Carleton, who lives with me, and is exceedingly well acquainted with Co. Ho. business, will have much leisure time during the time I shall have occasion to be absent, and he will, I am convinced, be exceedingly attentive to anything that may transpire, and in addition to his use I propose that a young man should always be in the Co. Ho. in office hours.

Not knowing if you would be in the City to-morrow has induced me to take the liberty to trouble you with these few lines to-day, as I am very anxious to send word into the country per post to-morrow, if my mother and friends may expect to see me, and if you will take the trouble to favour me with an answer I shall be much obliged to you.

There are no arrivals from the West Indias to-day. Mr. Jumper's Bill for the £150 has appeared and is accepted payable at your Bankers on the 10th inst.

I am, Sir,

Your very obedient humble servt.

THOS. RUMNEY.

London, 2nd December, 1797.

MISS CLARK,
Cumberland.

(Summary.)

Have given her information that I shall set off for Cumberland on the 22nd or the 23rd inst., and expect to see her at my mother's for the 5 days I shall have to stop—that I shall only be 10 days from London in all—that I will go to see her at Workington if she can't make it convenient to come to Mellfell. Etc., etc., etc.

London, 2nd December, 1797.

MR. A. RUMNEY.

(Summary.)

Told him as above about my intention of going down to the North—that I shall spend as much of my time as possible at his house—told him I would be glad to see my two sisters, Bab. and Ann at his house, having no time to call on them at their home—told him of my intention of sending some old cloaths in a few days.

Old South-Sea House, 4th Dec., 1797.

MR. GRAHAM,
Highgate.

SIR,

The house you have to let at the end of the row only suits me in some respects. The

water not being supplied within doors, the smallness of the principal garden, and there being no stable etc. are great objections, but if they could be removed in a certain degree, I might be induced to think more about it. I shall not, however, have occasion for a country residence before Lady Day next, I fancy, but if you will take the trouble of sending me a line or two mentioning the lowest rent, and if those objections pointed out can be at all removed, I should be much obliged to you.

I am, Sir

Your obedient servant

THOS. RUMNEY.

London, 6th December, 1797.

MRS. CLARK,
Highworth.

DEAR AUNT,

I beg leave to inform you that Mr. Johnson has granted me leave to pay a visit to my mother this Xmas. I am not to be absent from his Co. Ho. above 10 days and I propose setting off on Friday the 22nd inst., and hope to be in time to take my dinner with my poor mother on Xmas day. The distance being so great half the time will be taken up in travelling by the most quick conveyance, and I shall not be able to see but a very few even of my nearest relations. But to see my mother after an absence of almost 15 long years will be no common gratification and satisfaction to

me. She is not less than 70 years of age, I believe, and, I am afraid, poor woman, her state of health is but very so so—. I would most willingly include you in my list of friends I propose visiting on this occasion, but the shortness of my allowance of time will not admit of it. I assure you it is an indulgence I thought Mr. Johnson would have made much difficulty about, but I have the pleasure to say he seems to make me very welcome. I have offered him a person to attend his Co. Ho. while I am gone, and he appears to be satisfied. If I can be of any use to you in any kind of way in undertaking this journey I shall be happy in so doing, and beg you'll not hesitate in making free with me.

I hope you enjoy both good health and spirits, and also all your friends about you. Please to remember me respectfully to them and offer them on my account the compliments of the approaching season, and believe me your dutiful nephew, and

Sincerely affectionate humble servant

THOS. RUMNEY.

P.S. My cousin, Mrs. S. Hodgson of Penrith (late Miss Clark), has lost her husband. He died on the 12th Nov. last. I have neither seen nor heard anything of Mr. Charles Jones since Mr. Powell was in Town.

London, 12th Dec., 1797.

MISS CLARK.

Accept, my dear Mary, my best thanks for your kind reply to my last, which I am glad to find met with so welcome a reception. I trust the news was also agreeable at Mellfell, but that Lumpy Tony Lumpkin has not to this hour sent me a line to say so. Ere now I should have been raving at his inattention, had you not comforted me with your polite and friendly letters.

I am sorry you labour under a certain degree of difficulty in procuring leave of absence for a few days. My time will be so short or I would not hesitate one moment in saving you the trouble and inconvenience of meeting me at Mellfell or Penrith, but if you can't possibly accommodate me, I will at any rate step on to Workington. The time to my setting off is now reduced to 10 days, but I feel as if it were 10 weeks. Never did a schoolboy experience more anxiety than I do. A disappointment now would be felt most severely. Two West India packets having arrived within these few days, and Mr. Johnson being unwell at his Co. Ho. frets me a little, but I am unwilling to call it a danger. My determination is to set off on the evening of the 22nd in the Mail Coach, and I am told I may expect to arrive at Penrith on Sunday about 12 o'clock, where I hope I shall either see or hear of you. As to the conveyance from thence to Mellfell I leave to my brother to settle.

I shall be obliged to you to send me a line to inform me exactly how you stand circumstanced with respect to getting leave of absence. For all that I can possibly learn with respect to such like movements will be little enough in considering how small my allowance of time from Town is.

I have many things to impart to you of the first consequence, which I shall make a reserve of till I have the satisfaction of a personal interview, and with every kind wish towards you, I remain

Your faithful and affectionate friend

THOS. RUMNEY.

London, 14th December, 1797.

MR. RICHARDSON.

(Summary.)

Acknowledged the receipt of £15 he sent me per post from Plymouth—told him I had wrote to him on the 6th inst. respecting my intended journey into the North on the 22nd inst.—wished him a successful cruise etc.

London, 16th Dec., 1797.

MR. A. RUMNEY.

(Summary.)

Mentioned my intention of setting off on the 22nd per mail—expected to be at Penrith on Sunday about mid-day, the 24th,—would endeavour to execute his commissions.

London, 20th December, 1797.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

(Summary.)

Told him 'twas impossible for me to accept his invitation to call on him on my return from Cumberland—that Mrs. Clark had given me an invitation to call on her at Highworth—promised to attend to his commissions in the North—told him Mrs. Clark had said she had not heard from him—that I was sorry to be informed of his gloomy prospects respecting Miss Holyoak—that I expected to be home again 2nd January.

CHAPTER XVIII

DIMINUENDO

London, 3rd January, 1798.

MISS MARY CLARK,
Workington.

DEAR MADAM,

I arrived here yesterday morning at half-past five o'clock and found my wife Johnny in bed, shook him by the nose out of a sweet sleep and then by the hand. I took an hour's rest in bed but without sleep. I opened the Compting House at 10, and Mr. Johnson made his appearance at half-past eleven o'clock, and I have the pleasure to say without a cloud upon his countenance. The arrival of some ships and a packet from the West Indias made the business of the day fall very heavy on me, but my spirits, thank God, were pretty well equal to it. This day also I am full-handed with Compting House matters, but having promised to write to you early upon my arrival, and flattering myself also of its meeting with a welcome reception has induced me not to suffer another post to go from hence without taking a few lines to you.

Allow me, madam, once more to repeat my

thanks to you for the trouble you have taken, and the polite attention you have shown me of my visit to the North. I am very sensible of its having been attended with a certain degree of inconvenience to you, and that I did in a certain instance rudely prevent your following your inclination, for which I now beg your Pardon, and assure you that had I seen *then* with the eyes I do *now*, no such intrusion upon your freedom and time would have taken place, and what fell from me at the conclusion of the conversation I took the liberty of holding with you respecting my present and future views in life, and I beg leave to refer you to explain this particular remark. Your making me no sort of reply to the question I put and which is now alluded to was thought at the time it happened a little extraordinary—and could, I think, admit of but one construction and *that* not favourable to the views I had undertaken to suggest to you, wherein my proposed comfort might be considered to exist. To confirm this received opinion to be just, I humbly request you will favour me with an explicit remark in your next. Be assured of my making you quite welcome to deliver your sentiments freely to me in this matter, the nature of which induces me to wish I may be early informed of your determination.

The Gate I have held open to you for a certain purpose is the first act of the kind I ever either did undertake or thought it prudent so to do.

Therefore the awkwardness of my doing it must be attributed to my being raw and inexperienced. My integrity, however, in the whole affair will, I trust, not be doubted.

If you *have* formed a connection with the object of your choice as a partner for life, your signifying it to me shall be kept as secret as you may wish, and if you have created no wish to become concerned with me in a matter of the kind, be candid enough to say so.

As a soldier and a member of the Honble. Artillery Company in the City of London, I feel myself bound to acquit myself with as much honesty and true courage in this little affair between you and I as is required of me in the military capacity.

Such is my hurry and agitation of mind brought on by my bustling visit to my dear friends in the North and unexpected business here that I am far indeed from being equal to letter writing, but particularly with regard to the one in hand, the meaning of which I hope you'll perfectly understand. The other defects can be of but little consequence.

I hope to hear that you had a pleasant and safe journey to Workington.

In the mind's eye I am still with my mother, my family friends and kind neighbours etc. at my dear native home—all of whom I hope are as happy in my absence as they seemed in my presence, which I must say far exceeded my most

sanguine expectation. I am, with every kind and respectful wish towards you,

Your affectionate kinsman and friend,

THOMAS RUMNEY.

London, 6th Jan., 1798.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

(Summary.)

Told him to abandon the scheme respecting Miss H., if he could not represent it different to what he had done, thought his family friends were not in a situation to lend him assistance with propriety to themselves—that my mother was about to administer to my sister's effects—that I discovered no partiality respecting the distribution of Elizabeth's effects—that my journey had cost me 20 guineas, but had not borrowed a shilling at Mellfell. That his brother (in law) George wanted money to pay for land to the amount of £400.

London, 6th Jan., 1798.

MR. A. RUMNEY.

(Summary.)

Told him of my safe arrival on Tuesday the 2nd inst.—my extreme hurry in Compting House business since—respecting the desponding account from my brother William—my discouraging him from looking to his family for assistance—my having taken out a commission at the Commons for my

mother to administer to my sister's effects—the cost about £8, which would be inconvenient for me to advance on account of my late expenses—that I should do it by a friend—sent compliments to all friends, and acknowledged their kindness to me on my late visit.

London, 8th Jan., 1798.

MR. A. RUMNEY.

Inclosed the paper of administration for my mother to sign— with an abstract of an act of Parliament to be shown to my mother also— begged the papers may be returned to me without loss of time.

Sent per Mr. Dodd.

London, 13th Jan., 1798.

MISS CLARK.

The information of your having got home quite safe, and that your excursion had been attended with more pleasure than inconvenience affords me real pleasure and satisfaction, and, believe me, I rejoice to find you able to express yourself so well satisfied with the behaviour of my family friends towards you, and which I think you may be assured was nothing more than what was due on the occasion.

I have now to return you my most sincere thanks for the trouble you have taken in making the reply

to the important matter contained in my last. The very able manner in which you have handled it, and the place in which you have put your Negative is truly laudable and confers the highest merit on you. I must, however, at once confess I am much affected at it, such as happens to fall to the lot of susceptible minds under the most severe disappointments. I now find I have been too sanguine in the hope of accomplishing my wishes, but it is some consolation to me that in a matter of *this* nature I myself partake of the mental affliction.

Allow me now to say, Mary, that such has been the manner you have expressed yourself upon matters generally during my correspondence with you by letter before I saw you that I could not help forming the most favourable opinion of you, and which not being at all abated in consequence of a personal interview induced me to intimate what I did to you privately at Mellfell, when you refused to have it discussed, which I have since thought was the effect of modesty or a wish for an allowance of time to digest it, and before the receipt of your letter I had a thought of recommending you to come up to Town and getting into a Boarding School in the capacity of English teacher, and that if after mature deliberation you found no wish to be concerned with me in the matter in question you would still be situated in the way (if my recollection is perfect) that you intimated to me you should like. But you have put up a Bar that appears insurmountable, and quite disheartens me in offering any

sort of proposal to you or of having almost the wish to hold any further correspondence with you from this moment respecting any matter whatever.

Having given you at Mellfell a rough, but honest sketch of my situation and intentions and discovered a readiness to answer any questions candidly, I do not conceive there is a necessity for my intruding more on your time at present than in telling you I am sensible of the obligation I am under to you for your very friendly and polite attention to me on all occasions, for which I am very thankful and assure you

I am your sincere well-wisher,

THOS. RUMNEY.

London, 18th January, 1798.

MR. RICHARD JONES.

DEAR SIR,

In consequence of having received a letter a few days ago from your nephew Edward respecting his being replaced at Cheam School, I have made Mr. Johnson acquainted with it, and beg leave to state to you his reply, which, I am sorry to say, is not favourable to the project of our young friend, for he says that as his father is now expected in England so soon as in the course of a few months, he recommends Edward's remaining where he now is, or, however, his not being again introduced at Cheam without his father's full approbation of the measure. I was at

Edmonton on Sunday and just looked in upon your brother Charles, who requested of me to speak to Mr. Johnson about Edward's returning to Cheam, and I have complied with that request also, and observed it was the wish of Charles that he would have the goodness to take the trouble of Edward's re-introduction, and that it was not thought Highworth School would be well calculated for the pursuit of the studies the youth may have in hand. But all this availed nothing in inducing Mr. Johnson to have any concern in the business at present. I presume we may expect to see you in Town very soon, and I shall be glad to see you at the South-Sea House.

Pray give my kind respects to your nephew and tell him I am very glad to understand he is well entertained and gratified with his friends at Highworth. A box of sweetmeats is just sent to the Compting House directed to him per the Kingston, Capt. Ford, and which I have paid 11/6 for for Custom House charges. If you wish it to be sent down per waggon I will embrace the first opportunity of having it done.

I am surprised to hear of my aunt being at Bath, where she is gone, I presume, for the benefit of her health. I beg leave to offer my best respects to your mother and every individual of your family, and with the same to yourself, I remain, Dear Sir

Your obedient humble servant

THOS. RUMNEY.

London, 22nd Jan., 1798.

MR. RICHARD JONES.

(Summary.)

Wrote to him at Mr. Johnson's request about his nephew Edward who Mr. Johnson has promised to give a letter of introduction to his being replaced at Cheam School, but will have nothing to do with him in the holidays—I have promised to send the box of sweetmeats on Saturday next for Edward.

London, 25th Jan., 1798.

REV. WM. RUMNEY.

(Summary.)

Pleased with his temperate manner of writing—hope to continue very friendly with him in future in consequence of this discovery—hope to come to a clear understanding in April next about all money matters in the Family in which I was disposed to take an active part—that I was inclined to have Betty's legacy sold and shared equally—approved his going to Highworth—told him to throw out hints to Mrs. Clark respecting the affairs to be arranged in April next—gave him sketch of the situation of friends and relations in Cumberland—a bad account of cousin Sarah Hodgson—a good one of the rest of that Family and of Mary Clark—hoped he would have a pleasant answer from the Holyoaks—would be glad if he

could settle my account in April next—suppose Anthony would propose giving note for the money owing our late sister E.

London, 10th Feb., 1798.

MISS CLARK,
Cumberland.

(Summary.)

Said I was pleased with her letter of the 2nd inst.—that I now flattered myself with seeing her in London—in a month or six weeks—proposed her coming up with young Goodall—thought it would not suit my brother A. to come—gave her every assurance of my friendly intentions towards her, and begged to hear from her again by the first opportunity.

Franked per Trevanion.

London, 26th February, 1798.

MR. PETERSON,
Nevis.

SIR,

I have commissioned the Bearer Captain Crosse, to receive of you your debt to me of £14-3-6 with interest thereon at 5% from April 1st 1795 until paid off. Knowing that you have a perfect knowledge of each other has induced me to prefer him to settle this matter with you to Captain Shelley who kindly offered me his services.

Captain Crosse is made acquainted with the amount and the interest expected to be paid upon it, and I trust you will seriously consider the inconvenience I have sustained and pay him without hesitation, and his receipt shall be your discharge.

You may be sure the money is too much wanted to allow of my discontinuing my frequent applications for it.

I am, sir,

Your well-wisher.

London, 17th March, 1798.

MISS CLARK.

MADAM,

Five weeks ago I wrote to you a pretty long letter on the subject of one I was favoured with from you dated 2nd ult., and at the foot of mine I particularly requested of you to oblige me with a reply to it the first opportunity, but not having had a single line from you since, has induced me to change my opinion of you materially. Wilful neglect or inattention I cannot endure.

I have not a word to say upon a Certain Subject, and it is now for me to suppose that I have been more busy than wise respecting it.

On the 3rd inst. I sent you a few lines enclosing blank legacy receipts for your signature. Mrs. Clark informs me she has it not in her power

to pay the legacies at present, and solicits for three months indulgence. I have already met with more trouble than I expected in the concern, and wish it was in more able hands to conduct. I am very busy with my own concerns, and am not in a humour to write more at present.

With due respect, I remain

Your well-wisher,

THOS. RUMNEY.

CHAPTER XIX

WINDING UP

London, 23rd March, 1798.

MRS. THOMPSON,
Whitely-Wood, Sheffield.

DEAR COUSIN,

Having wrote to Mrs. C. of Highworth lately upon the subject of legacies which are due next month, and having been informed in consequence of it that she has it not in her power to pay them so soon as the period they fall due, an unpleasant commission has fell into my hands, for I have undertaken to give my friends in Cumberland every assistance in my power, and many of them having arranged their pecuniary matters in such a way that a disappointment in not receiving the legacy money when due, will be almost insurmountable. I have entered into a very warm contest with the Executrix, and have been provoked to say I almost insist upon her paying them punctually. Poor body! she has evidently listened to some busy advisers about her, and who, from their selfish motives, I suppose, and ignorance, have obliged me to be at a great deal of trouble in explaining the nature of the

funds, my reasons for wishing a completion of the business to take place at the proper time, and the necessity I feel of seeing it effected if possible.

Not having heard from you upon the subject, I presume you will yourself apply to Mrs. Clark, but I thought this hint might be of some use which induced me to send you a few lines. Mrs. Clark says, however, that at Midsummer next she intends paying all demands upon her, but the legatees may even have to be sorry for suffering the postponement (sic).

Mrs. Clark is much advanced in years and her friends seem, and by report are, exceedingly keen indeed in laying schemes for their own interest in attending to her; the Dr's character in matters of a similar nature is well known at Highworth. I will thank you to offer my best respects to Mr. Thompson and all your family, and hoping this will find both yourself and them quite well,

I remain,

Your affectionate cousin and
obedient humble servant.

T. R.

Old South-Sea House.

London, 16 May, 1798.

MR. A. RUMNEY.

(Sketch.)

Sent him Bk.P. Bill for £109-14-8. Balance due to him

His net balance of Legacy	£115 12 10
Late Eliz. Rumney's	£115 12 10
Mary Rumney's cost of Administration paid per T. R. at the Commons	7 1 8
	£108 11 2
His one-sixth share	18 1 10
Due T. Rumney from A. Rumney	£133 14 8
on account of late E. Rumney 22 0 0	
To be reserved to pay W. R. 2 0 0	24 0 0
Sent him in Bank Post Bill, 19th instant	£109 14 8

Told him to acquaint the Brewer's family in what manner I held this money in my possession—and that I had paid my brother William in full, and had given him an invitation to come and see me on account of his marriage scheme.

Bank Post Bills sent A. Rumney payable to him, dated 25th June, 1798, viz.—

£200 No. B. 1506 per J. Warldron

Entd. J. Northover

£40 19 7 per do.

Do. Anthony Rumney directed to allow the family at the Brewery each £1-1-7 for interest

money if they require it, and Miss Clark of Workington £1-12-3.

My claim on them for £200 Stock Balance is £6-17-2; on Miss Clark £10-5-9, but if they accept the interest will be so much less.

London, 22nd August, 1798.

MRS. CLARK,

Highworth, Wilts.

DEAR AUNT,

I am well aware of having incurred your displeasure in adopting the advice of my friends in procuring a settlement respecting the legacies bequeathed by my late uncle to his relatives, but as I am sensible no improper conduct was made use of in bringing that affair to a conclusion at the period required, I am induced to hope no material anger towards me remains. I am to judge of your opinion of me by my *general* behaviour to you from my first introduction to your knowledge and attention, and in taking that survey I cannot suppose you to think unfavourably of me. To you and my late worthy uncle I owe any little success I have met with in this Metropolis, and a thousand favours you both were pleased to confer on me from time to time besides have I to thank you for and gratefully remember, and it is my wish to give proofs of it, but feel a peculiar awkwardness in asking to be placed upon the footing I have been so long accustomed to. Never to hear what transpires at

Highworth respecting any one thing is a great change to me. Poor Mrs. Jones I was informed a few weeks since by Mr. Gale, died the latter end of April last. I beg leave to condole with you in that event from an idea of you and her being companions of a long standing. Mr. Charles Jones I hear no account of, but suppose him to be in your neighbourhood.

I have the pleasure to inform you Mr. Johnson and I continue to go on upon good terms and very steady. My mother and family, I am happy to say, are also very well. I had a letter from my brother William this morning, which acquaints me with his being on a visit to Miss Holyoak in Derbyshire. I am inclined to believe they will be married before the year is out and I sincerely wish they may.

I have been lodged at Highgate this summer and find the air and exercise of benefit to my health. I think of continuing there the winter also, notwithstanding the distance which is $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The pot of honey you were so good as to send me last year has not yet been touched. It is held in too much esteem to be meddled with for ordinary use. I hope you enjoy both good health and spirits and also your friends, and in wishing you all a continuance thereof, I remain, dear aunt,

Your sincerely obliged nephew and
affectionate humble servant

T. R.

Extract from letter to Anthony Rumney, 15th Sept., 1798.

Bk. Po. Bill forwarded to him, value	£38 17 2	
Mrs. Rumney's £200—4 % Stock	£115 12 10	
£60 retained for Wm. and Thos. Rumney	£60 0 0	
Due to do. on acct. of E. Rumney, twice £6 13 4	£13 6 8	
6 Powers of Attorney to T. Rumney by his cousins in the North	£3 9 0	
	<u>£76 15 8</u>	
	£38 17 2	

A note sent to Mrs. Rumney for the £60 payable on demand and with interest at 5%.

THOS. RUMNEY.

Thomas Rumney's expenses attending his entering into the Artillery Company on March 3rd, 1797.

Paid on being admitted viz. for 3/4 years subscription from Xmas last to Midsummer	15 9	
Customary fees, 2 guineas & 5/-	£2 7 0	£3 2 9
March 6th. To pd. for a ticket for the Ball at the London Tavern		£1 1 0
To pd. for a Pair of Gloves for the Ball		2 6
To pd. for Black Stock 1/6 & Buckle 1/6		3 0
To pd. for a Drilling Cap		5 7

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April	To James Bacon's Bill for Uniform Coat, Casimere Waistcoat & Breeches	£7 7 0	
	A Drill Jacket 16/-, gaiters 10/-discount 8/-	£1 6 0	£8 13 0
	To Thomas Wigzell for Musket Belts and Silver Best (breast?) plate com- plete		
	To G. & J. Idle for Hat Feather To Drilling Trousers, Gaiters etc.		
	To attending monthly meeting		1 6

The Rev. Wm. Rumney in account with T.
Rumney.

1799		£	s.	d.
	To Balance	21	3	1
Jany. 31	To pd. Mr. S. Neave for oysters sent Miss Holyoak		5	6
April 30	To pd. Henderson, Taylor, for a waistcoat		17	0
May 15	To pd. carriage and portorage of Miss H.'s Hat		1	6
June. 7	To Mr. Aylet for a sofa etc., & Pillows		3	2 0
Dec. 31	To pd. Messrs G. & J. Idle for altering and repairing hat for Miss H.		17	0
	To a years' interest on the £30 pd. Mrs. Rumney		1	10 0
	To pd. for 10 yds. Gingham for Mrs. Charlotte Rumney			
		£27 16 1		

A copy of the above furnished Wm. Rumney.

The following is the only letter from Mr. Clark to his nephew which has survived and that is of a date prior to the latter's letter book.

Highworth,

Oct. 25th, 1795.

DEAR SIR,

I have just received your long facetious letter and embrace the opportunity of Mr. Cook's coming to Town this evening to acknowledge it. Mr. John Cook of the Navy Department, Somerset House, has been here this fortnight in Quality of Miss Fanny Marsh's Beau. All parties seem very agreeable, but I believe he intends to wait for a more permanent establishment of which he entertains speedy and sanguine hopes.

I expected you to have been more sanguine in your views of a good slice of the Loan. There will be enough for you all. At Dover 10 Dozen of Port, with the address which you so pleasantly describe must do the Business. If not, I think, Mr. J. had best send you down, in all those graceful irresistible attitudes or anticks with 10 Dozen more. I wish to be cheerful, if possible, when Occasion occurs. But my Spirits already flag. I am at present a little revived. But my time is certainly short. Tell your mother I hope soon to meet her in a better Place. As to your Brother Bill, I know not what to make of him. He wants and he always will want, Money. It is not convenient to me to supply him: and if a better time should come, it

hurts me to cast away the fruits of my Industry and Economy in wasteful Extravagance. Let him learn to cut his coat according to his cloth. Your Aunt has long wished the Box to be replenished with Sugar, but in vain. Mrs. C joins in best Respects to you and Mr. Ch. Jones with

Your dutiful uncle

ED. CLARK.

Mr. Rumney

G. Johnson's, Esq.,

Old S. S. House

London.

CHAPTER XX

SUPPLEMENTARY

As will have been seen in the account on page 302 the Rev. Wm. Rumney did in the event marry Miss Charlotte Holyoak. He became vicar of Swindon, probably by the purchase discussed in the letters, and died in or about the year 1830 leaving two sons, William and Thomas. The former son called on his uncle Thomas and gave him his father's gown to be made into a dress for his aunt, received £5 from his uncle for his expenses, and passes out of the family history altogether. Of Thomas we know nothing.

Anthony ("Tony Lumpkin") died at Watermillock suddenly in October, 1798, aged 36 years, and thus Thomas the Clerk found himself converted into the Esquire of Mellfell. Thomas lost no time in quitting the South-Sea House and coming north, but he did not commence farming his estate at once. His mother died at Mellfell in Jany. 1802, aged 73 years. On Jany. 1st, 1806, he was married by licence to Elizabeth Castlehow of Waterside, a representative of an equally old statesman family in the same parish. They had no family.

After leaving London Thomas Rumney does not

appear to have kept a letter book, but he did keep elaborate accounts, and occasionally a pretty full diary, from which a few extracts are taken, as showing some sidelights on his character and also on country life at a time when the tourist had not as yet discovered Lakeland.

January 11th, 1805.

The Hounds here from Cordbeck.* Mr. Hasell not pleased at them. I went to Mr. Yewdale's Ball at Mr. Dobson's, Patterdale. Tea'd, supper'd, and slept at Mr. Mounsey's.† About 40 scholars performed exceedingly well. I danced much and did not leave there till 4 o'clock next morning, when I returned with the Miss Mounseys. I met with two Miss Mounseys from Greystoke there, whose brother I once travelled part of the road from London with.

January 16th, 1805.

Called on Timothy Halton at Grieves and paid him for 10 weeks annuity, short paid him by my late brother Anthony, due on account of my grandmother-in-law,‡ Alice Rumney, who received £10 per annum on account of Tonguehead Estate—

Paid Timothy himself	...	...	...	£2	0	0
To his daughter	...	..	...		2	6
				£2	2	6

Drank tea there.

* Caldbeck, pronounced as above.

† The famous "King of Patterdale."

‡ In Cumberland "in law" is often used in the same sense as "step."

January 17th, 1805.

Mr. Thwaites* measured the corner of Jos. Woof's Calf Close for me to carry my fence through. Attended a Meeting at the School House. Was chosen a Trustee as were several others to fill up the vacancies by deaths etc. The School Wall was let to John Brown to be enlarged and rebuilt—14 roods at 8/- per rood. The wood growing in the garden was sold to Joseph Harrison for £2 - 12 - 6 The School Stock money, £101 - 0 - 0, bearing only £4 - 5 - 0 per annum interest, to be call'd in, £9 accruing interest to be put to it, and lent out at a higher rate.

The new Trustees and others present went to Brown's and spent each 1/-.

Attended a meeting of friends at Mr. Thwaite's. To tea and spent the evening. Much card playing and the company cheerful.

March 4th, 1805.

Geo. Martin and I getting stones. Greenhow and Wright walling in Croft. Two carts leading stones. Expect Miss Castlehow, her brother, and Betsy Thwaites to tea.

A new schoolmaster was to have come to-day (Parker) but is not.

Miss Castlehow and her brother did come to tea and supper.

I went home with Miss Castlehow—stopped nearly 4 hours.

* Vicar of Watermillock for some 50 years, the second of the three vicars, who between them covered 150 years.

March 7th, 1805.

Martin, Wright, and self, walling in Croft. Carpenters setting rails at Tonguehead.

Jos. Todd sold the old cow call'd Lady to Cannon and Ireland at £14 - 0 - 0.

Jos. Todd and I go to spend the Evening at Gowbarrow Hall.*

A Court held at Dockwray on account of sale of 2 tenements of Land by Tim. Martin to Sutton.

Jos. Todd begun plowing on Whithwhaite yesterday.

Won at cards at Abbott's, 3/2.

March 12th, 1805.

A thaw last night, much wind. Wrote a letter to Miss N. Mason upon a particular subject. Gave to Mr. Sander's niece, when at Keswick, 1/-, to Mrs. Bank's nurse 1/-. Received the opposite plants from Keswick. Paid carriage of them from do. to Penruddock.

March 27th, 1805.

The School Garth was planted. I found the plants—say 130 Scotch, 30 of Larch, 5 of Oak—a silver, two of Balm of Gilead, a tall Larch, and a Lord Weymouth Pine—in all 170. Present—

Rev. Mr. Thwaites
Schoolmaster Mr. Park
Mr. Thomas Castlehow

* This neighbouring property was the original homestead of the Runneys as mentioned in the Introduction.

Mr. John Clark
Benjamin Grisdale
Joseph Woof
Thos. Jackson
John Thompson
John Taylor
Thos. Rumney.

I also had a handsome Balm of Gilead planted at the north corner of the churchyard at same time, about $1\frac{1}{4}$ yard high. We also cut the watercourse straight behind the School House. After doing all which we went to the Public House and spent 1/- each. I went home with Mr. Castlehow and tea'd and spent the evening.

May 9th, 1805.

The Duke of Norfolk has sent the Parish a Bond for a woman, who is come from Greystoke to the Tower to lay in, and who is supposed to be with child to him.

Called at Mr. Castlehow's about half-past nine o'clock, when the family were in bed.

May 22nd, 1805.

Call'd at Mr. Grave's office * and got a copy of the Juror's Oath administered to the foreman at the Court Day. Gave the Clerks at Grave's office for said copy 1/-. Call'd on Mrs. Eleanor Dawson at Dacre on my way home. She is much reduced in her flesh. The weather quite warm, but there

* Now Bleaymire & Shepherd's, Solicitors, Penrith.

is much snow upon the High Fells. Treated Ann Trimble and Agnes Gill to an exhibition at John Brown's, each 6*d.*—Hasting's Phantasmagoria and Comic Humour—went myself—about 50 people there—a poor entertainment.

20th June, 1805 (Thursday).

The Races held in the Township. Aaron Sisson got the Belt*; I got in fourth round. Joseph Abbott got Parish Bridle—Parker, the main prize—Hasell's hound won the whip.

22nd June, 1805.

Weeding Quicks in Union Field. An extraordinary Review upon Penrith fell yesterday of Volunteers of Leath Ward, Kendal and Whitehaven. Met a few neighbours at John Edmondson's floor laying. John Brown's daughter very unwell at Mr. Thwaites's. Weeding quicks in Folly Union etc.

24th July, 1805.

Jemima Clark returned home to Penrith.

Rev. Mr. Robinson of St. John's died suddenly last Saturday.

A man found dead upon Patterdale Fells with a little dog with him.†

* For wrestling.

† Gough, the young Quaker naturalist, who lost his life on Helvellyn 3 months previously. The fidelity of his terrier, who watched by his body until its discovery, is celebrated in well-known verses by Scott and Wordsworth. He was buried in the Friends' burial ground at Tirril, 2 miles short of Penrith.

27th July, 1805.

The weather very showery. Bespoke a pair of boots of John Grisdale. Tea'd at Castlehow's.

29th July, 1805.

Wrote to Mr. Carleton per *Jemima Clarke*.

In *Barbara Hoole's* * *Book of Poems* are 2019 subscribers which at 6/- is £605-14-0.

31st July, 1805.

Settled with Joseph Todd up to this day, when I received a balance of £4-5-0 The rent of the whole five Tenements from Lady Day last is £125-0-0 per annum with the deduction of £5 and cost of 10 Cart Loads of Lime, say £2 more, making £7, at which rate £118 will be the rent commencing at Lady Day last.

1st August, 1805.

On coming home late last night I met with the Rev. Mr. Hoggart in Lambgill, who had lost himself on horseback in trying to get to Threlkeld from Pooley—had rode all night. I took him home and he slept with me.

18th August, 1805.

Went to Thursby Church. Drank tea at Mr. Mason's Vicarage House.

* Subsequently *Barbara Hofland*, a celebrated writer of girls' books; a distant cousin of T. R's. Her husband, T. C. Hofland, was a passable artist and the author of "*The British Angler's Manual*," illusd. with plates from his own pictures.

19th August, 1805.

Went to Carlisle to attend the trials at Assises. The cause between the Rector and Parish of Greystoke to be tried. Met with Richardson and Johnson who took care of the evidences. At the Duke's Head Inn. Returned to Thursby with Trimble's Horse.

20th August, 1805.

Went again to Carlisle. Went to Duke's Head. Found one Gillbanks, who had to speak to hand-writing of late Parson Rumney.* The trial did not come on this day. Returned to Thursby.

21st August, 1805.

Went again to Carlisle. When the trial between Rector and Parish of Greystoke came off before Judge Manners Sutton, when it was decided in about an hour in favour of the Rector. The Modus of 2/- was considered by the Judge and Jury to be much more than the real price of a Lamb at an antient date. I undertook to make up the account for Richardson and Johnson in settling with the evidences—

Expenses of Evidences	£14	8	9
Bill at Inn per	}	£23	11 3
Daniel Snowdon			
		£38	0 0

1st September, 1805.

Pulled remarkable large Berries in my Tongue

* Vicar of Wat ertm illock.

Garden. The weather still showery. Drank tea at John Clark's. Supped at Mr. Castlehow's. Michael Dawson brought his wethers. I spoke to Mr. Castlehow on going down Lambgill respecting his daughter.

9th September, 1805.

Gave Mr. Trimble 2/6 for coming with a cart with freestone from Thursby. Mrs. and Mr. Thompson, Mrs. Clark and her son James, Mr. and Mrs. Thwaite, Mr. and Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Mary Hodgson and myself took Mr. Castlehow's boat for Patterdale, but the wind being high we left the boat off Low Park and walked to Patterdale, except Mr. and Mrs. Clark, who returned home. We dined at Patterdale at Mr. Dobson's at 4 o'clock. I paid 6/-; Mr. Jas. Thompson, 6/6; and Mr. Thwaites only 6d. in all 13/-. Mr. Thwaites paid Rob. Grisdale, boatman, to Gowbarrow 1/- Mr. and Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Clark went to Mrs. Martin's at Dockwray from Gowbarrow to spend the night. Mr. and Mrs. Thwaites, James Clark and self brought Castlehow's boat down to Watermillock at 8 o'clock. Lord and Lady Belgrave and two sons at Dobson's Inn.

Gave School Boys in barring Park their master out 1/-. I call'd with Mrs. Thompson this morning at Townend, Mr. Robinson's and Mr. Castlehow's.

11th September, 1805.

Paid Mrs. Sarah Clark	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
For Brandy	6	0
For Wine	4	9
	10	9

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Clark, Miss Castlehow, Mrs. Turnstall and self went over to Mr. Thompson's at Seat, where we dined. Afterwards sailed to Usemere, and all went to the top of Dunmallard. Mrs. Clark from being quite lusty had much difficulty in getting up and fell several times, and myself along with her in coming down. I drunk tea and supped at the Castlehows after bringing the ladies home up the water—the afternoon remarkably fine.

27th September, 1805.

Received a letter from Wm. Rumney giving me an invitation to go and see him.

20th September, 1805.

Made road on Mellfell Side. Thos. Woof and I took the two Miss Simpsons across Ulswater in the evening.

1st October, 1805.

The weather has been remarkably fine for a week past, and the corn all shorn, except some of Wm. Troutbeck's, and much housed.

The Weather Glass never known to be higher for many years than on the 29th ult.

1st November, 1805.

Mr. Clark and I set out at 8 o'clock on our journey. We called on Mr. Sanders at Keswick and took refreshment. Went over Whinlatter by Lorton and Cockermouth to Talentire, where we

stopped over night at Harry Armstrong's. I gave their niece, Fletcher, 1/- and maid-servant 6d.

2nd November, 1805.

We went from there to Maryport, where we called on Wm. Clark and Mrs. Stalker. From Maryport we went to Mr. Clark's sister, Mrs. Rodgers, at Flimby, and she accompanied us to Seaton to a ship reckoning of the "Barbara," Capt. Brown, where we had a most excellent dinner. The owners very respectable. A Captain Wilson, a Mr. Wilson, Quaker, and old Captain Martindale, Mr. Fletcher, a Banker of Workington, a Doctor Dickinson and Wife &c. &c. Went from them to Mr. Hudson at the Lodge, Workington found them pleasant people.

November 3rd, 1805.

Stopped over night. Went to Church. Mr. Howe preached. Mr. Curwen there. Dined with Mr. and Mrs. Hudson. Went to see the Workington Volunteers under Mr. Curwen's command, who is Colonel-Comt. Drunk tea with Mr. and Mrs. Bowness. Supped and stopt at Mr. Fletcher's, Keeper of Workhouse.

4th November, 1805.

Breakfasted with them. I gave their son 1/- called for our horses at Mr. Hudson's. I gave their son 1/-. Set off to Dissington. Went to Mr. Martin's, dined and tea'd. Miss Walker, Mrs. Hodgson and her sister there.

5th September, 1805.

Left Mr. Martin's. Gave the two Wilson's servants 1/6. Paid a visit to Thomas Mounsey at Ouse Bridge.* Dined with him. Tea'd at Mr. Sander's, Keswick, and ordered 300 Scotch plants for myself, Mr. Clark 100 do, and 50 of Larch. Got home at 11 o'clock at night.

30th November, 1805.

Old Mary Hodgson to be buried this day from my Tongue House. About 70 people are expected at the Funeral.

73 lbs. Beef	} provided
41 lbs. Mutton	

Jos. Greenhow putting up a Corble Chimney at High House for me.

The Funeral Dinner was at Mellfell House and the Company after dining went to Tongue House to sit, which plan made good convenience—the day showery.

I read the Will of poor old Mary Hodgson after tea to the parties concerned. The amount of the Deceased's property is £170, viz.

Thos. Wood's Mortgage	£90
Robt. Wright's Note for	<u>£80</u>
	£170

5th December, 1805.

A Prayer Day or Thanksgiving on account of

* There was formerly an inn at Ouse Bridge. The road on the S. side of Bassenthwaite Lake had not then been made.

Lord Nelson's Victory. Received a note from Miss Castlehow at my seat in Church by her servant Ruth. Waited on her in consequence of it in the evening at her request. When I spoke to her father concerning matters between her and me, he said he would give her in marrying £500, and with her own etc. she would be at present equal to about £600. He also said her fortune might in time be three times £500 or more—much more, however, said he than I might suppose. I wished him to advance £500 on her wedding, but that he said he could not do, as he had given the rest no more and he wished to serve them all alike. I proposed to Miss C. that she would give up the matter of our engaging to marry, but she objected to that in her father's presence, and seemed exceedingly affected, and pressed our agreeing about it much, but we parted without doing so.

29th December, 1805.

Tea'd, supped and slept at Mr. Castlehow's. The day wet.

31st December, 1805.

An excessive, wet, stormy, day. Miss Castlehow and I went to Penrith. I had John Clark's horse. Purchased a marriage license of Mr. Fletcher for 2½ guineas—a gold ring for 6/6—16 pairs of gloves, viz. 9 men's, 7 women's—men's at 2/10, women's at—

Helped Jos. Todd to pay in the Assessed Taxes—to Mr. Satherthwaite at the Crown Inn, Penrith.

CHAPTER XXI

MARRIED—AND DONE FOR

1st January, 1806.

I, Thomas Rumney, married Miss Elizabeth Castlehow of Watermillock Chapel per Rev. Joseph Thwaites. Gave him one guinea and pair of gloves, and to J. Thompson 5/-, and gloves to Schoolboys 2/6. Miss Ann Robinson acted as Bridesmaid and Thos. Castlehow jun. as Bridesgroom's man, Thos. Castlehow sen. as Father. Dinner at his house at Watermillock. Present—Mr. and Mrs. Thwaites, Mr. and Mrs. John Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Todd, John Castlehow and Miss Ann Robinson.

The company remarkably cheerful. Played at cards. The company departed about midnight. No attendance to Bride and Bridegroom upon their going to bed, as is customary upon the occasion in this country.

2nd January, 1806.

I remained at Mr. Castlehow's. Called at John Clark's and at Mellfell. Played at Whist in the evening.

3rd January, 1806.

Walked up to Mellfell. Dined at Mr. Castlehow's. Mrs. Rumney and I attended the feast at Mr. Abbott's, Gowbarrow Hall. Played at cards—won 2/6. Got home at 10 o'clock.

4th January, 1806.

A wet, stormy day. The Mr. Hutchinsons and Mr. Row tea'd and supped at Mr. Castlehow's. The Revd. and I did not play at cards. He drank pretty freely and stopped till about 2 o'clock.

5th January, 1806.

Mrs. Rumney and I attended Church. Dined at Watermillock. Drank tea and supped at Mellfell. Mr. Castlehow, and Mr. and Mrs. Clark along with us. Gave notice at Church for the Trustees for the School to meet there next Sunday to consult about the School Stock.

6th January, 1806.

Showery day. Wrote to Wm. Rumney and Ann Trimble. Mrs. R. and I went to John Watson's Feast—Tea and Supper—played at cards—lost 3/7½—came home at 10 o'clock.

7th January, 1806.

A wet day. John Clark and I went to see old Thos. Greenhow. Found him better. The swelling in his throat is burst.

8th January, 1806.

Cold, squally, day. Thos. Castlehow and I went to Jos. Clark's after supper and played at cards, Mr. Row, John Watson and Son William.

9th January, 1806.

Walked up to Mellfell. Dined there. Settled my account with my farmer, Jos. Todd, of Mellfell, viz. from Lady Day last up to Michaelmas for rent and for Board and Lodging up to 1st January last.

Balance of this Account £8 3 0 in favour of Joseph Todd.

10th January, 1806.

An excessive stormy night. Mr. Hasell's hounds appointed to come to hunt here to-day, but the day too stormy for it.

An appointment for my friends to meet at John Brown's at Clark Gate to drink together on account of my late marriage.

Wrote a letter to Mr. Carleton about School Money—his money sent to his brother and sister. A most stormy evening with wind, snow, and rain. About 30 people, nearest neighbours, gave me the meeting at Brown's. 124 quarts of Ale drank. I paid 1 guinea towards the reckoning—1/6 collected of the rest. The company cheerful and broke up at 2 o'clock.

The Weather Glass excessively low.

12th January, 1806.

Mrs. Rumney and I went to Church. Sat in my Tongue Head seat for the first time after marriage. The day very showery—much of the late heavy fall of snow gone.

Rev. Mr. Hutchinson called and spent the evening at Mr. Castlehow's.

24th January, 1806.

Had appointed to go to the Rector of Greystoke about the School with Mr. Thwaites, but he couldn't go from little sleep, being up late at the Christening at the Tower. Mr. Castlehow had company, viz. Mr. and Mrs. Abbott and Mr. and Mrs. Watson. Played at cards till 12 o'clock.

4th February, 1806.

Walked to Penrith on foot. Thos. Castlehow took £100 of Mr. Grave, Attorney, and £400 of Mr. Harrison, Brewer, to pay me £500, being the consideration money for Mrs. Rumney's (his Daughter's) first deposit towards her fortune. I placed it in the hands of Mr. William James of Penrith, of whom I took a Bill on Account of the same at two months for £425 on his Bankers, Messrs. Down, Thorndon, & Tree of London of this date, for the purpose of purchasing £700—3% Consols, payable to myself. I also took a Bill of him for £320 on account of School Stock, in order to make up which I have advanced about £25.

322 FROM THE OLD SOUTH-SEA HOUSE

Old Stock	£110 0 0
New Collection, about	£185 0 0
	£295 0 0
Thos. Rumney's advance, say	£ 25 0 0
	£320 0 0
Took a note of Mr. James for £50.	
A balance in his hands of the	£500 0 0
after taking my own Bill of £425	
And advance to school do £25	£450 0 0
	£ 50 0 0

Thos. Castlehow has remitted Mr. Stockdale £500 on account of his having married his daughter Ann.

John Clark and I came home together by one horse.

I saw Joseph Clark at Penrith for first time after several months absence, and could not be accounted for by his friends. He says he has been in pursuit of health, and has been to Buxton Wells in Derbyshire. He looks much more healthy than he did. I got home by 4 o'clock.

10th June, 1806.

Rode to Penrith (ride and tye) with Joseph Todd upon my new Scotch mare, which is very quiet, but appears bridle reasted.

Took up of William James £50 as per his Note to me dated 4th Feb. last, Interest unsettled viz. for 4 mos. & 5 days.

	£	s.	d.
Paid to Robison for sundries		3	7
To Fallowfield			
to Rimmington, Baskets		8	0
For 2 pigs	£1	5	0

11th June, 1806.

Mr. Hasell—Mr. Grave, the Commissioners—Cowper of Machel met at Powley to ride Mr. Hasell's Boundary against Watermillock Division. I rode Jos. Todd's black mare, a few of the Division along with me, and we took bread, cheese, and ale. A dispute arose at Wreay Steps and again at Carthanock, where we were obliged to beg for postponement from our not being able to conform exactly to our written statement for want of Mr. Hilton's presence. I lent Mr. Cowper my horse and he rode it off to Powley, where I was obliged to follow and consequently dine with the Commissioners and party, about 12. Much wine was drunk and the company forward in liquor—the Dinner gratis, being the first meeting.

17th June, 1806.

Watson and Woof and I waited on Mr. Grave respecting the Boundary, when it was agreed that we on the part of Watermillock should give up Carthanock and Dacre and a part of Wreay, and that Mr. Grave make the proposal accordingly to Mr. Hasell by letter.

Went to Penrith, my eyes still very sore and spirits low. Gave towards the races in Watermillock, 2/6. Thos. Thompson and Thos.

Halfpenny, founders. The weather exceptionally dry. Saw the Rev. Mr. Thos. Martin at Penrith in his way up to Lincolnshire respecting his living there. Bought a set of Horse Harness of Hodgson of Penrith. Mr. Elliott at Tongue painting the walls of the rooms which will take him 4 days. One of my Scots calved yesterday upon Low Fell. Found by Mr. Starky—the calf dead.

18th June, 1806.

Mrs. R. and I had much talk about housekeeping arrangements in which our opinions did not agree.

2nd July, 1806.

The day showery—made up the hay into great cocks. Joseph Abbott's sheep-shearing. I find my spirits the lowest I ever remember, owing to domestic matters displeasing me most sadly.

17th July, 1806.

I got 6 loads of Hay in Tongue Head Low Croft. John Kitchen's maid came to help in the afternoon.

Attended a Vestry Meeting at Church respecting Lamb Tythe and Commons on Low Fell. The question put for Lamb Tythe was if the suit was to be carried to the House of Lords which was agreed to.

As to the Bounder Ridings there was much difference of opinion, and I was sadly displeased at their awkwardness and indifference in coming

forward on the Day of Riding, viz. 23rd inst. At last got the following persons appointed to act, viz.—Rev. Mr. Thwaites, Thos. Rumney, Thos. Castlehow Jos. Watson, Joseph Hilton, and Jos. Nicholson, and who are authorized by the Vestry.

1st August, 1806.

Met His Grace the Duke of Norfolk to look at the fence line prepared by Mr. Hasell for the division of the over lap upon Fell, when it fell to my lot to have a good deal of talk with the Duke, and had a long walk with him on his leaving the Common, when it was agreed that he should speak to Mr. Hasell about the over Riding at Wreay Steps. A few neighbours were also upon the ground and it was 4 o'clock before we returned.

31st August, 1806.

Put my cows to Fogg on the Mire for first time.

Went to Church, when I found in my large Prayer Book in the Litany Service a paper wafer'd to the leaf upon which was in printed words—"Henpeck'd Husband"—and which I then shew'd to Mrs. R.

7th September, 1806.

Went to Church in the morning. Mrs. R. and I tea'd at Mellfell. William Clark came to see them at do. from Askham. I asked him to be my servant from Martinmas, but found him quite undetermined.

20th September, 1805.

Housed remainder of Barley, viz. 9 Cart Loads—and 185 Stooks. Mr. Luff and Benjamin Glossop most impudently and audaciously shot and trampled in my Brown's plantation and Glossop walked a considerable distance upon the out fence wall, and took stones frequently from off the top of it, and threw them among the young plants, which offended me so much that I got Thomas Gasgarth, my servant, to leave the cart in Union Field, and go to tell them from me that I desired they would quit the plantation. They answered they would when they had found the bird, but they soon returned and strolled and shot about the grounds.

22nd September, 1806.

Paid John Nicholson—4 purveys for Watermillock Church 2/- and for 4 half-purveys for Greystoke Church 11*d*.

Mrs. R. and I took tea and supper at Mr. John Clark's, when Orpah Abraham and S. Dickinson were present. I gave Orpah's little boy 1/-.

Mr. Charles Fox, Minister for the Foreign Department, died aged 58 the 3rd instant.

22nd October, 1806.

Quarried in Folly Quarry and was seized with a smart touch of the Rheumatism in the small part of my back.

Miss Mary Clark arrived in Penrith the 19th on her late mother's account.

Bought 6 Crock Ewes of Jos. Todd for £2-11-0.
Wet, stormy day.

23rd October, 1806.

Mrs. Rumney and I went to the Races at Penrith. We called on Miss Mary Clark, who had appointed to go to Workington before her return to London. We dined and tea'd at Mr. Robison's Ironmonger's. The Duke of Hamilton's horse won the £50, and Mr. Matthew Atkinson's grey horse beat General Orde's black—a match for 200 guineas. The day fine and much company. Mrs. R. and I returned at a late hour. The mare stumbled twice and dismounted Mrs. R. We called at Mr. Robinson's with a letter from Miss Harrison, stating the extreme illness of her mother.

24th October, 1806.

The rheumatism in my back at times very severe indeed. Attended the Court Leet at Greystoke, when the Jury in this Township had nothing to present in their verdict.

A Vestry was held at the Church respecting the Lamb Tythe, when it was resolved to hand up the Trial between Askew and the Parish to the House of Lords, and to protect Isaac Edmonson from the Rector distressing him on the Demand of Potatoes until advice of Counsel can be procured. Joseph

Nicholson of Sparket was the only one who objected to have his name put down on the list to that effect.

31st October, 1806.

Miss Mary Clark and Mrs. Clark of Longthwaite dined and tea'd at Tongue and walked to my plantation and grounds, which Miss Clark seemed to enjoy much and approved of. I gave her a penknife and case.

Joseph Todd took up his potatoes at High House. Cannon and Stagg, butchers, came to see Jos. Todd's fat goods and my Scots, but did not offer good prices.

9th November, 1806.

Went to Church and to Joseph Abbott's in the afternoon to see my charge in Income papers. Mrs. R. very much displeased at my going from home at all, and renders my return at times truly disagreeable.

APPENDIX

THE following memoranda together with some family cash accounts are inserted in some spare pages at the end of the Letter-Book.

3^d No 97 { Irish Annuities of £12,054-3-4 }
 { per annum for 15 years from 25 March 1795 }

Pay to Thomas Rumney the sum of £6 for half a year's paym^t by way of Ann^y, which became due the 25th day of September 1796 on £12— Interest or Share in the Annuity for 15 years from the 25 March 1795, created by an Act of Parliament of Ireland of the 35 year of his Majesty King George 3rd for the use of the Government of that Kingdom and by an Act of the Parliament of Great Britain of the 35th year of his said Majesty, made Transferable at the Bank of England

Ex^d ND

To the cashiers of the } J. SOUTHEY
Bank of England }

I do hereby acknowledge to have received of the Bank of England the above mentioned sum in full for half a year's payment due as above said. Witness my hand this 26 day of Septem^r 1796.

THOMAS RUMNEY

Witness

W. A. WILLIS.

MEDICAL RECEIPTS.

TO CLEAR AND STRENGTHEN THE STOMACH.

Take Quasher Bitters, with Tincture of Cardimum say $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. of said Bitters to a Pint of Boil'd Lime Water—take a

teaspoonful of Cardimum with half a glass of Bitters—to be taken morn^g noon and evening.

FOR SCOREBUTICK HUMOURS—EXTERNALLY.

Six pennyworth of Guillard—of which take two Teaspoonfuls & put into half a Pint of Water, or 8 oz. Phial, & shake it well together. Bathe the place affected, & apply a Linen Rag, made quite moist, repeatedly.

HOW TO MAKE POMATUM.

Melt in the front of the Fire 1 pound & $\frac{1}{2}$ of Hogs Lard : then chop fine half a pound of Beef Suit, and set that in a Sauce pan upon the Fire ; and as it melts pour the clear of the Lard that is melting before the fire ; and when no more clear will come from Beef suit, and the Lard is quite melted, begin beating it with a Silver spoon, or an wooden one. It takes 3 or 4 hours beating before it is properly white & stiff : put what perfume you like ; one shill^g worth of Bergamot will do : the scent will go off in time, then add a little more. Put it well down in a Bason & a paper over it. It keeps for ever almost & never stinking.

HOW TO CURE DEAFNESS.

Take Ash Bows about the size of your Finger ; put them into the Fire to burn, leaving out one end which will drop an Oil, & which put into a Vial ; begin by putting one Drop into the Ear on going to Bed and increase to three which must be continued some time.

N.B.—This has been known to cure a deafness of 20 years standing.

FOR THE EYES. EYE WATER.

50 grains of White Vitriol, 10 scruples of Salt Petre, 15 oz. Spring Water. Let it stand 24 hours, then pour it off for use through a Sheet of blotting paper.

TO TAKE OFF THE BILE FROM THE STOMACH.

The Extract of Columba, made into Pills, to be taken twice a day for 10 days, say 3 or 4 for a Doze. The Columba Root must be boil'd down—Per Powell.

TO STRENGTHEN THE NERVES & STOMACH & REVIVE THE SPIRITS.

Buy at the Apothecary's Shop say a small 6 oz. Phial of Elixir of Vitriol, take a half pint glass or less of water & put in about 20 drops, once or twice in a Day, when Occasion requires. G. Johnson.

BRIMSTONE AND TREACLE.

2 oz. of Brimstone with $\frac{3}{4}$ or a pound of Treacle, to be taken in the spring and fall of the year—say for nine mornings & leave off for about a week & then take it again.

CURE FOR CORNS.

Buy Lapis Camalis or the Devil's Stone, which keep dry & close in a Phial, apply it for 8 Days twice a day, first cut away a part of the Corn that it may more immed^y take effect, then just wet the medicine at the end & rubb it on the middle of the Corn, & it will draw out the concealed Gluey or watery matter, which will be attended with pain.

FOR BILE ON THE STOMACH.

2 oz. of Stick Liqueur, put into a quart of Water, which boil till tis but a Pint, and take a Wine Glass of it in a morning fasting & on going to Bed.

FOR CLEANSING THE BLOOD.

Take a Tea Spoonful of the powder of Sassaperilla mixed with anything twice a day—or thrice.

Bitter allows, or alloways, a good thing to keep the Body quickly open, take it in Pills going to Bed.

FOR THE SCURVY.

The guice of Water Cresses say 1 Quart and 2 Quarts of new milk put together, a Tea cupful taken first thing every morning.

HOW TO CLEAN A GUN, SIDEARMS, &c.

1 pennyworth of Crocus,
 1 Do Oil, }
 1 Do Emery, } mixed together, on rubbing it on
 take a piece of soft Leather to rub on the Crocus after having applied the other.

For Belts &c. Pipe Clay, put on with a Spung, occasionally boil the p. clay.

These articles to be had at the Oil Shops.

HOW TO CLEAN LEATHER BREECHES.

Take a clean hard Brush & warm water & soap & wash off the Dirt well, turn the inside out & hang them up till nearly

Dry, then take pipe clay & whitening & 2 or 3 drops of Sweet Oil mixed well together with warm Water & lay it on pretty thick with a Sponge with the Grain of the Leather, then hang them up till quite Dry, beat, dust & shake them thoroughly, put on a little Bran to be rubbed with the Grain to clear them, then take a smoothing Iron a little warm & smooth them with the Grain.

N.B. To clean off the soil spots apply a pomice stone & the Brushes & Ball of a proper colour.

HOW TO MAKE LIQUID BLACKING.

Take $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of Ivory Black	} To be Boil'd together
a spoonful soft soap	
a pennyworth Treakle	
a pint of Water or small Beer	

not recommended T. R.

HOW TO MAKE PLAIN YORKSHIRE CAKES.

To a quarⁿ of Flour rub in $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of Butter,
 $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of yeast & to be kned with warm milk,
 after roll'd out to stand till rizen.

FOR SEED CAKES.

To a quarⁿ Flour 1 lb. of Butter,
 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz Caroway seeds,
 A little more yeast than for the above,
 To be kned with Milk & a Gill of Cream,
 And when rizen add 1 lb. of Moist Sugar.
per Mrs. Kirk.

HOW TO FIND THE INTEREST OF ANY SUM FOR ANY
NUMBER OF DAYS.

Multiply the Sum by the Days and that product by the Rate per cent. and which divide by the Days in the year, multiplied by 100, 365 or in Leap year 366.

Thus £20 for 30 days at 5 p/c.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 30 \\
 \hline
 600 \\
 5 \\
 \hline
 36500 \) \ 3000 \\
 \underline{20} \\
 60000 \ (\ 1s. \ 7\frac{1}{2}d. \\
 \underline{365} \\
 23500 \\
 12 \\
 \hline
 282000 \\
 255500 \\
 \hline
 26500 \\
 4 \\
 \hline
 1060 \ (\ 2 \\
 \underline{730} \\
 330
 \end{array}$$

To multiply the sum by the number of Days take the Fraction of the Sum upon the Days—& to bring the product into Pounds divide by 7300—if at 5 p/c, which sum to be divided by is made by multiply^s 365 days by 100 & divid^s the product by the rate p/c. viz^t 5.

Thus

$$\begin{array}{r}
 365 \\
 \underline{100} \\
 1/5^{\text{th}}) 36500 \\
 \underline{} \\
 7300
 \end{array}$$

The names of Mr. James Clark's children, given by himself with T. R. when in London 30th May 1790.

1st Mary

John

Jemmina

Vide 2 Book of Job

Candidus

all for the best

Orphea

Daughter of Jesse

Euryione

fearful of hav^g two good Hbds

Annia

Sis^r of Joash, 2nd Bk of Kings

Thristram

Built Edinbro

Edanidan

Son of Nimrod

Coisi

1st K^s of Northumb^d

James

Sarah

Plus

TOASTS & SENTIMENTS.

May the Gallant Tar who loses one Eye in the defence of his Country never see distress with the other.

May the Wings of Liberty never lose a Feather.

A Homely wife, a neat Retreat, everything in Season & enough to Eat.

To a kind Female, a generous Lover.

Plain deal^s without Rudeness, & Politeness without Affectation.

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(The references to the Rev. E. Clark, W. Rumney, Mrs. Jane Clark, Mrs. Rumney, Anthony Rumney, Richard and Charles Jones, are too numerous to be detailed.)

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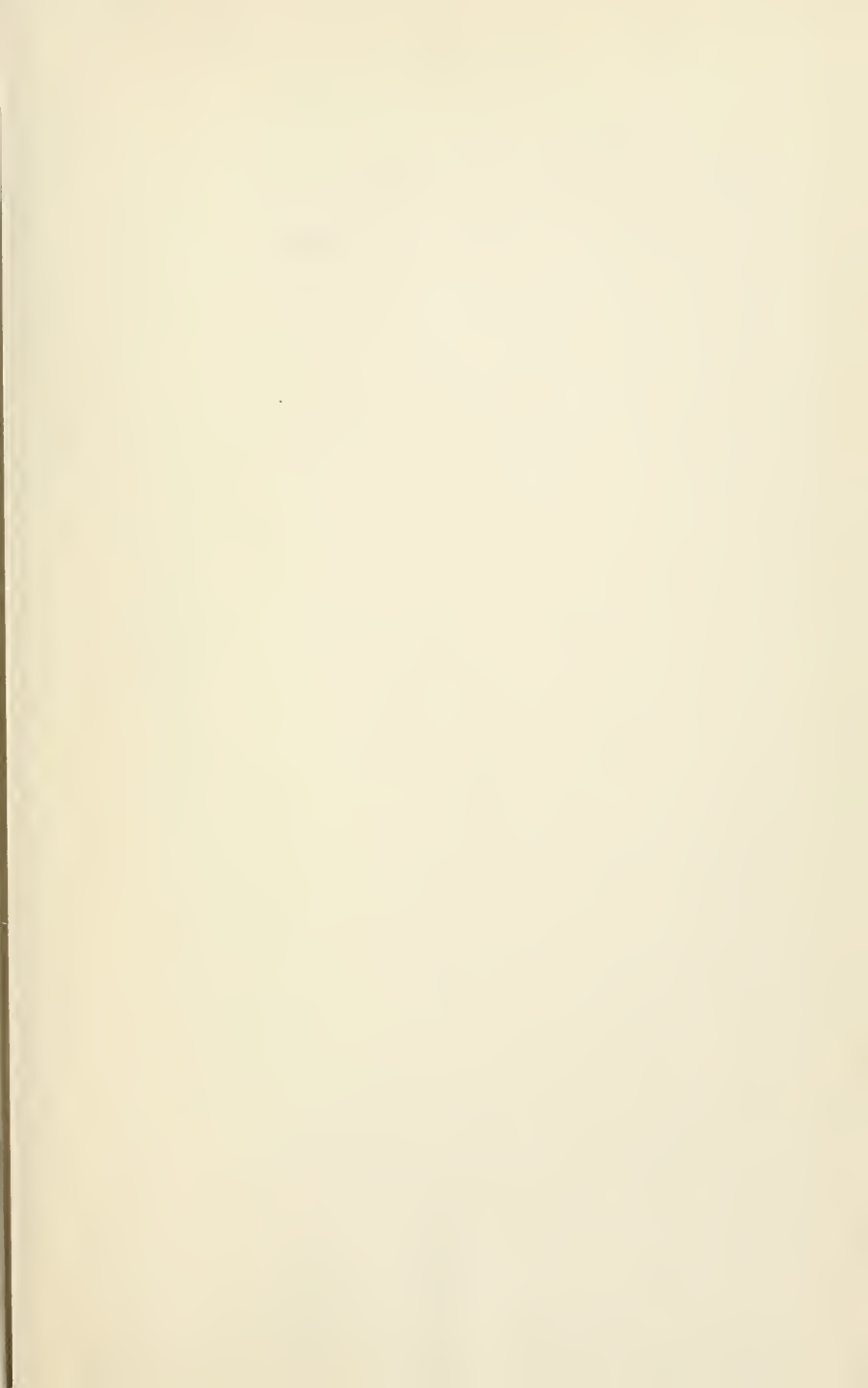
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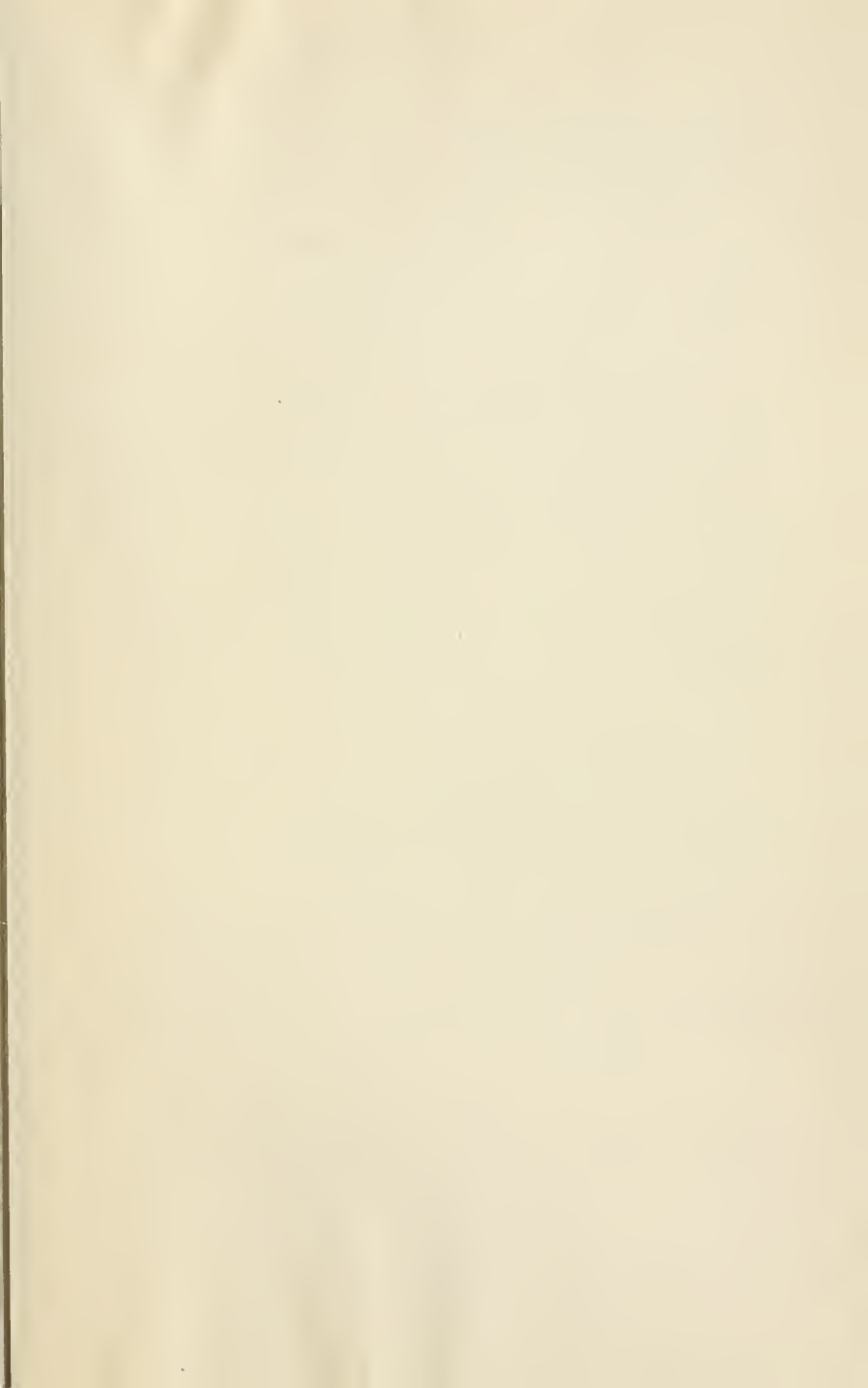
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